J. T. Fellowes
1822

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INTRODUCTORY

PREFACE.

THE Antiquity of innocent and rational Diverſions, and manly Exerciſes, may be traced back to the firſt Inſtitution of Human Society. Theſe Exerciſes and Diverſions, indeed, exiſted in the World long before thoſe States were formed, who afterwards made ſo great a Figure in Hiſtory, although even under them, they were conſidered as honourable and no way beneath the Characters of the greateſt Men and Heroes. The vital and active Principle, which leads us to the Practice of innocent Diverſions, is one of the nobleſt that can actuate the Heart of Man, (namely EMULATION, or a Deſire to excell others) while the Conſequences reſulting from them are more important than ſome will believe, or others acknowledge: for while they furniſh a Relaxation from the Toils of Buſineſs, and an Alleviation of the Cares of Life, they add Vigour to the Mind, Health to the Body, and, in Conformity with the delightful Variations of the Seaſons, mix our Pains and Pleaſures together, for the moſt ſalutary End.

In the infant State of Society, the Exerciſes of Hunting, Fowling, Fiſhing, &c. were found neceſſary to ſupport Individuals and their Families; but afterwards, when Refinement of Manners took Place of ſavage Ruſticity; when Men began to know the Value of their own Importance, and conſidered themſelves as diſtinguiſhed above others, in Conſequence of their Dexterity, or Ingenuity in manly Exerciſes, the Public Œconomy became in a Manner intereſted, and

BRITISH MUSEUM 28 FEB 63

and it was found conducive both to the Security and Honour of the State, to annex diſtinguiſhing Marks of Favour to thoſe whoſe Actions entitled them to it, in a more than ordinary Manner. To this laudable Maxim may be aſcribed the Origin of the Olympic Games among the Greeks, the public Shews among the Romans, and Knight-errantry, as practiſed by thoſe Northern Nations of whom we are the lineal Deſcendants. The ſame Spirit of Emulation among Individuals, and the ſame Reaſons of State operate leſs or more on the human Mind, and rule all the various Forms of Government.

What was practiſed from Motives of Neceſſity in the early Ages of the World, was encouraged in more enlightened States, that Youth might be habituated in manly Exerciſes, in order to wean them from that Effeminacy, which in a State of Indolence would have bewitched their Minds, and enervated their Bodies. But ſtill there was ſomething wanting; all the Rules preſcribed for their Conduct were only Inroads, ſo that it was reaſonable to ſuppoſe that many of them would be forgotten as ſoon as told. The Uſe of Letters was either then not known, or but little underſtood, ſo that it was impoſſible for any Man to retain in his Memory what was only verbally dictated, unleſs he was ſomething of an extraordinary Character, and far above the common Rank of his Fellow Creatures, a Favour not to be expected, and but ſeldom granted. Thoſe who live in the preſent Age, have this peculiar Advantage, that Arts and Sciences * are not only reduced to proper Syſtems, but every thing is treated of in ſo

* See Middleton's New Cyclopædia, or Complete Dictionary of Arts and Sciences, with all the Modern Improvements, in Eighty ſixpenny numbers, or price 2l. 8s. bound.

plain

plain a Manner, that almoſt every Perſon may underſtand them.

With Reſpect to the preſent Work, it has many Advantages above all that has been already publiſhed. The Rules laid down by the beſt Sportſmen have been carefully attended to, but they have been no farther countenanced or embraced, than was conſiſtent with a practical Knowledge of the different Subjects. Many Superfluities have been lopped off; the practical Knowledge of the different Subjects has been inveſtigated from actual Experience, and thoſe who are fond of indulging themſelves in manly and innocent Amuſements, will here find an Inſtructor, that will not deceive, but be of Service to them in all their Purſuits. The Editor has advanced nothing but what he knows to be conſiſtent with Practice, as well as Theory; and the Reader will here meet with a more accurate Delineation of the Subject than can be found in any other Book extant, while his Practice will give him daily Proofs of its Utility. As ſuch it is preſented to the Public, and we doubt not but it will meet with a candid and favourable Reception from all Ranks of People.

THE EDITOR.

THE

THE COMPLETE ENGLISH SPORTSMAN; OR, COUNTRY GENTLEMAN's RECREATION.

ANGLING.

On Fiſhing-Rods and Tackle.

HAZLE or Yew ſwitches gathered about the middle of *December* when moſt free from ſap, are accounted very good for your tops; run them over a gentle heat, to make them tough; let the ſtock and tops be taper, ſmooth and ſtrait, the pieces of each rod ſuitable in an exact ſymmetry, free from knots, or elſe they will be deficient in caſting, and never ſtrike well, nor be truly pliable, but at a knot be apt to break and ſpoil your ſport. To keep them in good order, bind them cloſe to a ſtrait pole, and ſo let them continue long, that they may not warp; faſten a loop of ſilk or horſe hair at the end of it with ſhoemakers thread, that the line may have play on

it; and though many uſe ſilk lines, yet I prefer the horſe-hair as the beſt; and in twiſting or braiding, obſerve an exact evenneſs, for one hair being ſhorter than the reſt in a link, the whole ſtreſs will lie on that, and in breaking, renders the reſt much the weaker, and often a good fiſh is loſt for want of this obſervance; make your knots ſure, that they ſlip not: as for the colour of the hair, it being free from nits or groutineſs, which ſome call botches, the pale wateriſh colour is the beſt to deceive in a clear ſtream, but in wheyiſh or muddy water, you may chuſe indifferently a line; for the ground angle need not be ſo ſtrong as that you intend for your rod at the artificial fly, abating in the latter a hair from top to bottom, in every link from one or two, to ſix or eight, or more.

As for the hook, it muſt be long in the ſhank, and of a compaſs ſomewhat inclining to roundneſs; for if the ſhank be ſtrait the point will ſtand outward; faſten the hair on the inſide of the ſhank, to preſerve it from fretting, whether you angle at top or bottom; proportion your hook for ſtrength and compaſs, to the number of hairs you angle with next it, neither uſe great hooks to ſmall baits, nor great baits with little hooks; *barbel*, *chub* muſt have large hooks; *carp*, *eels*, *tench*, *pearch*, *breams*, thoſe of much leſſer ſize; and experience teaches, *trouts*, in clear water, *graylings*, *ſmelts*, *roaches*, *ſalmon-ſmelts*, *dace*, *ruff*, and *gudgeons*, are ſooneſt taken with ſmall hooks, though many uſe great ones for the *trout*, eſpecially in muddy water, yet the *ſalmon* muſt be angled for with a hook according to his ſtrength; hooks for dub-flies ſhould be generally ſmall, and ſo for cod-baits, but larger for worms, yet ſuch as ſome uſe for the latter, do not generally take in clear water: when you whip your hook, which is ſtiled arming, do it with ſilk lightly rubbed with ſhoemaker's wax, twiſting it round on the lower part of the line, almoſt to the bent of the hook, on the inſide, having firſt ſmoothed the ſhank of the hook with a whetſtone; and for worms let it be red-coloured ſilk, but for cod-bait, paſtes, *&c.* white.

Floats ſhould be of cork for river fiſhing, but for ponds, meers, and other ſtanding water, quill and pens will do very well, and in very ſlow rivers, eſpecially when you are

BRITISH MUSEUM 28 FEB 68

are to angle near the top with tender baits or paſſes: as for your cork, let it be the fineſt, free from holes and flaws; bore it through with a ſmall hot iron, thruſt in a quill ſizeable, ſhaped with a knife to the likeneſs of a pyramid, egg, or pear, a proportionable bigneſs, and with a pumice ſtone finely ſmooth it; run your line through the quill, and wedge it in with the uppermoſt hard part of the quill, the ſmaller end of the cork being towards the hook, and the bigger towards the rod; let the cork be ſo poiſed with lead on the line, that the quill ſtanding directly upright, the leaſt bite or nibble may ſink the cork.

To lead your line, do it with a ſhot cloven, and then cloſed exactly on it; but not above two of theſe on any line, and that an inch and a half, or two inches diſtant from each other, and the lowermoſt plumb ſeven or eight from the hook; but for a running line, either in clear or muddy water, nine or ten inches; and if you find a ſandy bottom in a river, it being full of wood, with few ſtones, ſhape your lead a diamond faſhion, or to that of a barley-corn, or oval; bring the ends very cloſe and ſmooth to the line, yet make it black, for the brightneſs will ſcare the fiſh.

It is very neceſſary to have a landing net or hook, or you may loſe many large fiſh, by breaking line or hold, before you can land him. The net you may faſten to the end of a long manageable pole: as for the hook, it muſt be a large one with a ſcrew, to ſcrew into a ſocket at the end of a pole; and when your fiſh is entangled, clap it into the mouth of it, and draw it to land; but this latter is chiefly for *barbel*, *ſalmon*, and other ſtrong fiſh.

As for your pannier, let it be of light oſier twigs, neatly woven and worked up; and to be the more compleatly prepared on all occaſions, have in readineſs divers ſorts of hooks, lines, links ready twiſted, hair and ſilk of ſeveral colours, ſmall ſtrong thread, lead plummits, ſhoemaker's wax and floats of divers ſizes, line caſes, whet-ſtone, pen-knife, worm-bags, boxes, baits, ſciſſars. And thus having pretty well accoutred my angler with tackle, it will be next neceſſary to know what baits he muſt uſe, for on that mainly depends ſucceſs or fruſtration.

Baits bred on trees, herbs, plants, worms; their ſeaſon, and what fiſh take them; when and how, &c.

There are different ſorts of baits.

1. The garden-worm, lob-worm, or treachet and dew-worm, are one and the ſame, though in divers places their names thus alter; and this worm, one of the greateſt ſize, is an excellent bait for *chevin, ſalmon, barbel,* or *eel,* though the ſmall of the ſame kind are not much affected with them: that with a broad tail, a red head, and a ſtreak down the back, is the beſt; they are found in the latter end of the ſummer, in the evening, in gardens and church-yards, and may be driven out of the earth with the juice of walnut-tree leaves and water, poured on their holes.

2. Marſh or meadow-worms are found in marſhy grounds, or in banks of rivers in fertile mould, being tough and lively, and is a very good bait, eſpecially in *March, April,* and *September,* for *pearch, flounder, bream, ſmelt, gudgeon, ſalmon, trout, grayling;* though many, and not without ſucceſs, uſe from *Candlemas* to *Michaelmas,* and in moſs and water it may be kept fifteen days before uſe.

3. Brandlings, red-worms, and gilt-tails, are found in old dunghills, rotten earth, cows dung, hogs dung, or tanners bark, when it is uſed and caſt by. The brandling and gilt-tail are eſpecially good for taking *pearch, tench, bream, ſalmon, gudgeon, ſmelt;* they are taken by *trout* and *grayling* in muddy or clear water, and the red-worms well ſcoured, are taken by *tench, pearch,* and *bream,* and beſt in muddy water.

4. The worm called tag-tail is of a freſh colour, having at his tail a yellow tag, clear half an inch long, found in meadows after a ſhower of rain, or in chalky ground, in *March* and *April,* if the weather be temperate; this is held an extraordinary good bait for *trout* in cloudy weather, and a little ſcouring will ſerve it.

5. The palmer-fly, palmer-worm, wool-bed and cankers, are counted one and the ſame, being bred on herbs, trees, and plants, not being properly a caterpiller, yet the ſhape of one, being in the outward part rough and woolly,

and

and excellent baits for the *chub*, *grayling*, *trout*, *dace* or *roach*. The palmer-fly and may-fly are held the foundation of fly-angling, and have uſually good ſucceſs.

6. The oak-worm, caterpiller, cabbage-worm, crab-tree-worm, or jack, colwort-worm, or grub, may be long kept with the leaves of thoſe trees or plants, that breed them in boxes, with holes for air, or in withy bark; they take *chub*, *roach*, *dace* and *trout*, the oak-worm being preferable to any who breed on trees or plants, being the beſt taken on the top of the water, though you may go as deep as you will with them: to get theſe, ſearch the colewort or cabbage leaves, beat the oak, or crab-tree, or hawthorn; ſome of them are hard and tough, others ſmooth and ſoft; ſome horned tailed, others have them on their heads, ſome ſmooth, others hairy.

7. Bobs, of theſe there are two ſorts, they are found in ſandy or mellow ground, eſpecially after plowing; the one is juſtly called the earth bob, white grub or white bait, being much bigger than a gentle, having a red head, the body ſoft and full of white guts, the other is leſſer, and ſomewhat blueiſh, found many times in digging on heaths; they are excellent baits from *Mid-april* to the firſt of *November*, to take *tench*, *roach*, *bream*, *trout*, *chub*, *ſmelts*, *ſalmon*, *dace* and *carp*; they muſt be kept in an earthen veſſel, with the earth you find them in, covered very cloſe to keep out the cold and wind; ſome boil them about two minutes in milk before they uſe them, which makes them tougher and whiter, others dip them in honey or gum-ivy, for *carp*, *bream*, and both ways prove ſucceſsful.

8. Gentles or maggots, may be kept with fleſh, and ſcoured well with wheat-bran; they are eaſy to be had, or bred by putrefaction. Theſe are ſometimes added to a worm on the hook, ſometimes to a dub-fly, and ſo take *ſalmon-ſmelts*, but oftener uſed by themſelves, two or three on a hook; the day before you angle, put them into a box with gum-ivy, and it will prove ſucceſsful to your ſport; they are good baits for *tench*, *barbel*, *bream*, *bleak*, *gudgeon*, *trout*, *dace*, *chub*, *carp*.

9. Flag-worms, or dock-worms are the ſame, found among flags, in old pits or ponds, *viz.* the ſmall fibres of

the flag-roots, by opening little huſks, it is pale, yellow or white, longer and ſlenderer than a gentle, and theſe may be kept in bran, and are good baits for *bream*, *tench*, *roach*, *carp*, *dace*, *bleak* and *perch*; when you fiſh with it for the *grayling* uſe the ſmalleſt line and the float, and fiſh nine or ten inches from the ground.

10. The bark-worm or aſh-grub, are all one, being very full and white, bent round from the tail to the head, the head being red, and the parts very tender, reſembling a young dorr or humble-bee, and may be uſed all the year, but particularly from *Michaelmas* to the middle of *May* or *June*, and except the fly and cod-bait, is the beſt for *graylings*, *dace*, *roach* and *chub*; it is found beſt under the bark of an oak, aſh, elder, or beech; eſpecially when fell'd and they have lain about a year, or in the hollow of theſe trees when ſtanding, where doted or rotten; it is a very tender bait, and beſt on a briſtled hook, by running the hook in at the head and up the belly, till it ſtays on the briſtle, and no part of the hook's point appears out of it; they are kept well in wheat bran, and take the *grayling* with the ſmalleſt line; angle with the float, keeping the bait ſeven or eight inches from the bottom; but if you fiſh with it for *roach*, *chub*, or *dace*, uſe different tackle.

11. There is a bob found under a cow-turd, called a cow-turd bob, from the beginning of *May* to *Michaelmas*; ſome call it a clap bait; this is like a gentle, but bigger; you may keep it ſometimes in moſs, but the beſt is to keep it in earth, dug up under the place where you find it; it is very good bait for *trout*; if you angle with it on a briſtled hook, on the top of the water, and in the water; it is taken by *chub*, *carp*, *bream*, *tench*, *dace* and *roach*.

12. The cod-bait, cad-bait, cadiſworm, or caſeworm, are one and the ſame bait, though of three ſorts. The one is found under ſtones that lie looſe and hollow in ſmall brooks, ſhallow rivers, or very fine gravel, in a caſe or huſk, and when fit for purpoſe, they are yellow; they are bigger than a gentle, having a black or blueiſh head. Another ſort is found in pits, ponds, ſlow-running rivers, ditches, in caſes or huſks of ruſhes, water-weeds, ſtraw, &c. and are by ſome called ruffcoats, or ſtraw-worms; theſe

theſe are accounted principal baits for *bleak*, *ſalmon*, *ſmelts*, *tench*, *bream*, *chub*, *trout*, *grayling* and *dace*. The next is a green ſort, found in pits, ponds, or ditches in *March*, coming before the yellow ones, for they are not in ſeaſon till the end of *April*, and in *July* are out of ſeaſon: the third ſort is proper in *Auguſt*, being ſmaller than the other. Theſe muſt be kept tender in woollen bags when you carry them for uſe, but to keep them long alive, in a green withy bark, taken off and hollowed like a trunk, lay it in the dew to moiſten it.

Natural flies for baits, their ſeaſons, and where to be found, for what fiſh they are proper, &c.

1. The ant-flies are found in their hills, about the end of *July*, *Auguſt*, and moſt part of *September*; with the earth you take with them, they may be kept in glaſs bottles; two or three of them fixed on the ſmall hook, are certain baits for *chub*, *roach* and *dace*, if you angle under water not above ſix inches from the bottom.

2. The brood of humble bees, hornets and waſps are good baits, dry them over a fire or in an oven, ſo not being over done, they will laſt long, and ſit handſomely on the hook, to take *chub*, *eels*, *breams*, *flounders*, *roach* or *dace*; ſome boil them, but then they will not keep long: hornets, waſps and humble bees, may be uſed alive, when their wings are a little grown and their legs ſhort, eſpecially for the *chub*, as alſo the black-bee breeding in clay-walls.

3. The fern-fly or fern-bob, is found among fern from *May-day* to the end of *Auguſt*, it is thick and ſhort of body, has two pair of wings, the uppermoſt reddiſh and hard, which may be taken off: the laſt ten days of *May* the *trout* will take it every day, and the *chub* refuſes it no part of the ſummer.

4. The ſtone fly and green drake. The firſt of theſe is found under hollow ſtones at the river ſides; the body of it is pretty thick, and almoſt as broad at the tail as in the middle; it is of a curious brown colour, ſtreaked a little with yellow on the back, but much more on the belly, and is found by ſtony rivers; with this bait, for *flounders*, *dace*, *bleak*, *roach* and *pearch*.

5. The

5. The great moth that has a conſiderable big head with whiteiſh wings, is to be found in ſummer evenings in gardens, or trees and plants; it ſpeedily takes *chub* if you dibble with it.

6. The hawthorn-fly is black, found frequently on hawthorn-trees, when the leaves are but out; the beſt uſe this can be put to, is to dib in a river for *trout*.

7. The aſh-fly, woodcock-fly, or oak-fly, is the ſame, under different names, and holds good from the beginning of *May* to the end of *Auguſt*; it is of a brownish colour, and uſually found in the body of an oak or aſh, ſtanding with his head downwards towards the root of the tree, and is a very good bait for *trout*.

The bonnet-fly comes in ſeaſon in *June*, is to be found amongſt any ſtanding graſs, and is an excellent bait for *chub*, *dace*, &c.

Theſe being the principal flies uſed in angling, I now come to mixed baits of another nature.

Miſcellany of BAITS *very taking and much in uſe.*

1. *Salmon* ſpawn boiled, and faſtened on the hook, is a very good bait for *chub*, and in ſome rivers for *trout*, it being advantageous to the angler, particularly in the winter and ſpring if he keeps it ſalted; eſpecially in places where *ſalmon* uſed to ſpawn, for thither the fiſh gather to expect it.

2. Graſhoppers the latter end of *June*, all *July* and *Auguſt*, if their legs and outward wings be taken off, eſpecially for *roach*, *trout* and *grayling*, and here you put a ſlender plate of lead on the ſhank of your hook, ſlendereſt at the bent, then draw your graſhopper over it; after put a leſſer graſhopper or cod-bait at the point, and keep it moving, lifting up and ſinking again; a *chub* will alſo take the bait freely, and ſo will a *trout* if you dib with it.

3. The water-cricket, water-houſe, or creeper is but one, theſe take *trout* in *March* and *April*, and ſometimes in *May*, if you angle at the river: it is to be angled with in clear water, within a foot of the bottom, ſome let it drag on the ground. This creeper is bred in ſtony rivers, and help to turn into a ſtone-fly, about the middle of *May*, that fly not being any where ſeen before.

Lamery

Lamery pride, or ſeaven, is a very good bait for *chub* and *eels*, night or day: this is no other than little live things like ſmall *eels*, no thicker than a ſtraw, and are to be found in ſandy, muddy heaps, near to the ſhores in rivers.

Snails, the black and white, are good baits for *chub*, very early in the morning; *trout* and *eels* take them on night hooks, but the bellies of the black may be ſlit, ſo that the white may appear; ſome dib for *chub* with houſe crickets.

For *chub*, *barbel*, *roach* and *dace*, you may angle with cheeſe or oat-cake, eſpecially at the ledger-bait: the cheeſe you may wrap up two or three days in a wet linen cloth, or moiſten it over with honey and water.

As for a *pike*, he is a greedy devourer, and therefore moſtly delights in fiſh, frogs, &c. therefore your baits for him muſt be ſmall *dace*, *minows*, *roach*, *ſalmon-ſmelt*, *gudgeon*, *bleak*, *millers-thumb*, alſo *trout* and *eels* well ſcoured in wheat-bran, to take away the ſlime: and indeed moſt ſort of ſmall fiſh he takes; and how you are to manage them on your hook, I ſhall tell you when I come to treat of the taking him in the river *Thames*. Periwinkle, a kind of water-ſnail, is much uſed for *roach*, being taken whole out of its ſhell: *ſhrimps* taken out of their huſk or ſhell may be uſed as a bait for *chub*, *roach*, and *dace*.

Paſtes proper for the angler.

Paſtes are of ſeveral kinds, though tending to one and the ſame end: for a *chub*, or *chevin*, make a paſte of the fatteſt old cheeſe, the ſuet of mutton kidney, a little ſtrong runnet, mix them equally and finely together, then put as much powder of turmerick as will give them a fine yellow colour.

For *roach* and *dace:* grate fine bread into a little fine water, wherein gum-ivy has been ſoaked. For the *barbel* in *Auguſt*, make a paſte of new cheeſe and mutton ſuet. For *roach* and *dace*, you may put a little butter to your crumb bait, and colour it with ſaffron. For *carp* or *tench*, mix crumbs of bread with honey, though for a *carp* I reckon this the ſureſt.

Take

Take bean-flour, or for want of it, wheat-flour, the inſide of a leg of a young rabbit, catſkin, or whelp, white bees-wax and ſheeps-ſuet proportionable; beat them in a morter till well incorporated, then moiſten the maſs with clarified honey, and work it up into little balls before a gentle fire.

The *chub* in winter takes a paſte made of ſtrong cheſhire cheeſe, beaten with butter and ſaffron till it become a lemon colour.

Stoned cherries, finely grated manchet, ſheeps blood, ſaffron, make a good paſte for *roach, dace, bleak, chub, trout, pearch;* and for the *chub* only put a little ruſty *bacon* in it.

Another excellent paſte is made of the fatteſt old cheeſe, mutton kidney ſuet, ſtrong runnet, anniſeed water, wheat-flour, and the dripping of ruſty bacon held againſt the fire.

What is to be obſerved in angling with paſte.

1. You muſt proportion the quantity of your paſte you put on your hook to the ſmallneſs or largeneſs of the fiſh you angle for, as in other baits.

2. You may try oils upon any of theſe paſtes, and as you ſee your ſucceſs, ſo continue the one or the other. And the beſt for this purpoſe are oil of polipody of the oak, oil of petre, oil of ivy, and as properly gum of ivy, and aſſafœtida.

3. To ſtrengthen any paſte, and ſo prevent its waſhing off the hook, it will not be amiſs to beat a ſmall quantity of fine flax, cut ſhort, cotton wool or fine lint among them, which will prove very binding; thoſe that you would have keep long, put a little white bees-wax into them, and anoint them with clarified honey, the latter you may wipe off when you ſee occaſion.

4. Paſte or tender baits muſt not be angled with in rapid ſtreams, but on a ſmall hook in pits, ponds, meers or ſlow running rivers: your eye in this ſort of angling muſt be quick, your rod ſomewhat ſtiff, and a nimble hand to ſtrike, or elſe the bait and fiſh will quickly bid you farewell. This is better done with a quill float than a cork, which ſooner ſhews the nibble or bite: and if you then

then be not very quick, your labour is loſt, and with theſe paſtes ſucceſs is uſually had for *bream*, *bleak*, *chub*, *roach*. *dace*, *carp*, *tench*, *barbel*.

Oils and ointments uſeful in angling.

Take oil of ivy-berries, anoint the inſide of an oaken box with it, and put three or four worms, or other live baits into the box, ſhutting it cloſe; then keep them not there too long, leſt the ſtrength of the oil kill them, but take theſe out and put in more, and ſo they being ſcented with the oil, it will allure the fiſh more readily to take them. This may be done in the ſame manner, for want of oil, with gum-ivy, which is a tear that flows out of the ivy-ſtalks, when ſlit or wounded by piercing.

Oil of ſpike and diſſolved gum-ivy, are held to be much attracting, the bait being anointed with them.

Oil of polipody of the oak, Venice turpentine, and new honey is very good, if eight inches of the line next the hook be anointed with it, but then there muſt be two or three hairs, for it will not well ſtick to a ſingle one; however, do not clog your line with it.

Chymical oil of lavender, or for want of it, oil of ſpike ſix drops, three drachms of aſſafœtida, Venice turpentine one drachm, camphire one drachm, make theſe into an ointment, and anoint them as the former; this in clear water wonderfully takes *gudgeons*.

The fat of the thigh-bone of a heron, makes an ointment that rarely fails, and is eſteemed by thoſe that have tried it, the beſt of any, being a new experiment.

But let me commend to you above others this; take the oils of camomile, lavender, anniſeed, each a quarter of an ounce, heron's greaſe, and the beſt of aſſafœtida, each two drachms, two ſcruples of cummin ſeed finely beaten to powder, Venice turpentine, camphire and galbanum of each a drachm; add two grains of civit and make them into an unguent; this muſt be kept cloſe in a glazed earthen pot, or it loſes much of its virtue; anoint your line with it as before, and your expectation will be ſtrangely anſwered.

Oil

Oil of aſper ſo much noiſed about, and ſaid to be extracted from a fowl called the *Oſprey*, is now found to be a mixture of the oil of ſpike, lavender, and refined oil o turpentine, which however has a conſiderable effect in ſtill or ſlow moving waters; and obſerve in this caſe, your line muſt be anointed every ſecond drawing up, or the ſtrength of the ſcent being waſhed off, you may expect your ſport to ceaſe.

I might now ſpeak ſomething of artificial flies, and other artificial baits, but not to keep the angler too long from the water, I ſhall have occaſion elſewhere to treat of them.

Fiſhes Haunts proper to be known.

If you are not certain of any waters to fiſh in, your buſineſs is to try the moſt likely and promiſing, *viz.*

Where trees fallen, wood, ruſhes, weeds or rubbiſh are in rivers, or likely large ponds, there are ſtore of fiſh promiſed, for thither they reſort for warmth and ſhelter; but it is very troubleſome angling there.

The next are weirs, weir-pools, mill-ſtreams, floodgates, piles, poſts, pillars of bridges, cataracts, and waterfalls, eddies, whirling-pits, the ſide of a ſtream, in the ſummer eſpecially; for then they love to baſk and lie ſhallow, unleſs the weather be exceſſive hot.

The *ſalmon* is found in large ſwift rivers that ebb and flow, gravelly and craggy. The *trout* moſtly in purling brooks and rivers that are ſomewhat ſwift and have ſandy bottoms. The *carp* and *tench* love ſtill waters, or ſuch as gently move, where weeds or roots of trees are near to ſhelter them on occaſion. *Eels* generally covet muddy rivers, ponds or ſlimy ſands, eſpecially thoſe of the larger ſize. The *pike*, *bream* and *chub* are moſtly found in ſandy or clay rivers, brooks or ponds, wherein buſhes, bulruſhes or flags grow. The *barbel*, *roach*, *dace* and *ruff* for the moſt are found in ſandy or gravelly deep rivers, coveting to be under the ſhade of trees. The *umber* is likelieſt to be found in marley or clayey ſtreams, running very ſwift. The *gudgeon* likes beſt a ſandy or gravelly bottom; yet

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for all this, a trial of divers waters will not be amiſs where you may ſuſpect any fiſh are likely to breed; for experience in this art is the ſureſt inſtructor.

Times proper above others to angle in, according to the water, weather, &c.

1. In the hotteſt months take your opportunity when it is cloudy, and the water is moved by gentle gales.

2. When the floods have carried away the filth, ſudden ſhowers incumber the waters too, and the rivers, &c. retain their uſual bounds, looking of paliſh colour.

3. When a violent ſhower has mudded or troubled the water, and after that the ſtream runs ſwift, for then they uſually ſeek for creeks and ſhelter, and in the little rivulet running into the great one.

4. If you fiſh for *carp* or *tench* do it early in the morning, *viz.* a little before ſun-riſe, till eight, and from four in the afternoon till ſun-ſet, when the days are of a convenient length, *June*, *July* and *Auguſt*, but in *March*, the beginning of *April*, and the end of *September* they refuſe not to bite in the warmth of the day, the wind being ſtill.

5. If you angle for the *ſalmon*, the beſt time is from three in the afternoon till ſun-ſet, and in the morning as before: his proper months are *May*, *June*, *July* and *Auguſt*. The *barbel* bites beſt in *May*, *June*, *July*, and the beginning of *Auguſt*, from five to eleven in the morning. The *pearch* and *ruff* all day in very cool and cloudy weather. The *bream* bites from ſun-riſe till nine or ten in the morning, in muddy water, eſpecially when the wind blows hard, for the moſt part keeping in the middle of the river or pond in *May*, *June*, *July* or *Auguſt*.

6. The *pike* bites in *July*, *Auguſt*, *September* and *October*, about three in the afternoon, in gentle water and a clear gale. In winter he bites all the day long, and in *April*, *May* and the beginning of *June*, early in the morning and late in the evening. As for *roach* and *dace*, they bite all the day long, if the weather be not in the extremities of heat or cold, on the top of the water. The *gudgeon* bites

beſt in *April*, and till he has ſpawned in *May*, and if the weather be cool, till waſp-time, and at the end of the year, all day long in a gentle ſtream; obſerve when you angle for him, to ſtir and rake the ground, and he will bite the better. As for the *flounder*, though he is found only in ebbing and flowing rivers, that have communication with the ſea, he bites freely all day in *April*, *May*, *June*, and *July*, in a ſwift ſtream; he will bite in the ſtill, but not near ſo ſpeedy.

Ground baits to gather and feed the fiſh, that you may better and readily know where to find them, &c.

The ground-baits, or for baiting the ground, are barley or wheat ſoft boiled, which, for prevention of ſcattering, you may mix with ſome pleaſant freſh earth, ale-grains, wheat-bran ſteeped in ſheep's blood, clotted, dried and cut in ſmall pieces, periwinkles bruiſed in their ſhells, black and white ſnails, worms cut in ſunder and made up in little balls of earth. The guts of fowl, the ſmall guts or livers cut ſmall, old cheeſe and oat-cakes bruiſed together, malt groſly ground, theſe eſpecially gather *tench*, *dace*, *carp*, *chub*, *roach*, *bream* and *barbel*; and the more you feed them, they will be the ſurer to keep to that place, and be the fatter to reward your pains when taken; and theſe throw in a little above the place you angle at, if it be a moving water, for before they ground, the ſtream will carry them ſome diſtance from the place you throw at.

When you angle in clear water keep out of ſight as much as may be, ſheltered behind ſome buſh or tree, or by ſtanding as far off as poſſible, keep your eye only on the ſurface of the water, where your float is, and to effect this the better, your rod muſt be proportionable in length, to anſwer the place you fiſh at, and eſpecially at the ground, and a long rod and line at artificial flies are very neceſſary. An angler muſt add ſilence to his patience, and move his body as little as poſſible may be, for the fiſh are very quick-ſighted, and naturally fearful, particularly the *chub*, *carp* and *trout*.

When in a clear water you angle at the ground, or with a natural fly dibble, always do it going up the river: but

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in muddy water, or when you do it with a dib fly, uſe the contrary; if you have hooked a fiſh, and ſuſpect the ſtrength of your line or rod, let him play and tire within the water, before you offer to bring him near the top; be ſure to keep the rod bent, leſt running to the end of the line, he breaks his hold, or the hook; and if he be tired, and has in a manner done fluttering, bring him towards the top; and if there be occaſion, uſe your landing net, or hook; and take this for a general rule in hooking all ſtrong fiſh.

How to take Salmon, and Salmon-ſmelt by angling, &c.

The *ſalmon*, though not found in many rivers in *England*, is of principal note for river-fiſh, though it as well belongs to the ſea. They ſpawn in *September*, and come in ſeaſon the beginning of *March*.

His beſt biting is at nine in the forenoon, and three in the afternoon, in clear water, eſpecially when the wind blows againſt the ſtream, but not very roughly; then take the baits directed, and the ſtrongeſt tackle, for when he is ſtruck, he plunges and leaps, though not uſually does he endeavour to go to the end of the line.

The younger ſort of theſe are ſo tender mouthed, that unleſs you faſten two hooks almoſt in a quarter of a circle aſunder, they uſually break hold. For the great *ſalmon*, the principal bait is well ſcoured dew-worms; for the *ſalmon-ſmelt*, the brandling, gilt-tail, meadow-worm, *&c.* and for flies he taketh them natural or artificial; and if you uſe theſe, a cod-bait or gentle at the top of the hook is effectual; this with the dub-fly takes *ſalmon-ſmelts* beyond expectation; but for a greater *ſalmon*, if your fly be artificial, make it very large, with ſix wings, one behind another, that by that and the different colours, he may ſuppoſe it, as indeed it will appear in the water, a cluſter of flies. He is taken at the ground with a running line or float, and ſometimes he bites lower than mid-water at ground baits, clap-baits, and the larger ſort ſometimes take the minow and loach, and for theſe you may angle with a wire-ring on the top of the rod, letting the

line run through it to a great length; and when he is hooked, and is ſpent with plunging, fix your land hook in his mouth, that is ſcrewed to the end of a pole, as directed to land him.

Several ways to take the Pike, and where to find his haunts, &c.

The *pike* ſpawns in *March*; his uſual haunts are in ſandy, chalky, or clayey places, ſomewhat near the banks: for coveting ſolitude, he often lurks in holes, to ſurprize other fiſh, as they fearleſly ſwim by; ſometimes he ſhelters among bulruſhes, water-docks, weeds, or buſhes; and then he baits about the middle of the river, or pond, at mid-water, and for him you muſt keep your bait in a gentle motion, and at all times to be above a foot from the ground; he rarely bites in the night, for then he is for the moſt part gone to reſt in his retirement. In *April*, *May*, *June*, and the beginning of *July*, he does it moſt freely morning and evening in clear water, and a gentle gale in mill water, or a moderate moving one; and in the reſt of *July*, *Auguſt*, *September* and *October*, his beſt biting time is about three in the afternoon in water as before: in winter months, if the weather be pleaſing, and the water clear, he will not refuſe to bite at any time, though the moſt certain time is about three of the clock in the afternoon, particularly in a gloomy, cloudy day; but if the water be muddied with rain, there is no certainty of him: his beloved baits are *gudgeon*, *roach*, *dace*, *minows*, *ſalmon-ſmelts*, no bigger than *gudgeons*, a piece of an *eel*, a young *trout*, *&c.* but all his baits muſt be very freſh, and a live one tempts him much the ſooner, which may be put on by drawing the line between the ſkin and the ribs of the fiſh, and ſo on the hook, faſtening it in the gills, and this you may uſe in trowling: but here have your tackle very ſtrong, with wire about a foot from your hook, the next to it ſilk, and the reſt of the line ſtrong ſpun flax; come as little as you can near the weeds, leſt they ſpoil your bait before the *pike* come at it, faſten the tail of the bait to the joint of the wire, and having fixed your tackle, that the line may run and play, let ſo much lead be at the hook as may carry the fiſh's head downwards, as if after playing on the top, ſhe

was

was going to the bottom, and when you have ſunk it ſo, that it is at a convenient depth for the *pike*, ſlack your line and give it ſcope that he may run to his hold, and there pouch to ſwallow it, which you may know by the moving of the line in the water, then with a ſmart jerk hook him; ſome uſe no rod with this, but lead and float, holding of the line in their hands on links; and indeed there are ſeveral methods taken, though all to the ſame purpoſe; wherefore for brevity's ſake I omit them.

Angling for him at the ſnap, is to give him leave to run a little, and then ſtrike, which muſt be done the contrary way to that which he moves, therefore a double ſpring hook is uſeful in this way of angling eſpecially, for a great *pike* uſually will hold the bait ſo faſt in his teeth, that you may fail to pull it out of his mouth, and likewiſe ſtrike him, when if he holds the ſpring hook ever ſo faſt, the wire will draw through the bait, and ſo the ſpring opening, you will frequently hook him on the outſide of his mouth. Though trowling is ſurer than this, and more practicable, yet this is beſt uſed in *March*, when the *pike* bites ill, then upon ſpawning they are ſick and loſe their ſtomachs; bait this as the former, and he may be taken this way when he is ſo.

Other brief rules for Pike angling.

1. When the *pike* has taken your bait, obſerve how he moves; if ſlowly give him time, and you will rarely miſs him; let not your bait fall in one and the ſame place above once or twice, for if he take it not, then he is farther off.

2. If you find, after he has taken the bait, he lies ſtill as ſometimes he will, move your hand gently, to give notice which way his head lies, leſt in ſtriking you happen to pull the bait out of his mouth, if that cannot be diſcerned, ſtrike directly upwards: at the ſnap have ſtrong tackle, and give two luſty jerks, one after another, faſtening a ſwivel at the end of your line, which muſt be uſed at trowl and ſnap, and your armed wire muſt be hooked on it.

3. For the ſnap, have a hollow piece of lead, that it may paſs over the wire and end of the hook, which you draw within the fiſh's gills or mouth, that, as directed, it may keep the head downward, and at either of theſe baitings,

if you cut away one of the fins of the bait close at the gills, also behind the vent, and one on the contrary side, it will play the better and seem more lively.

4. Be sure to raise your hand in casting when the bait is about to fall into the water, so by dashing it may not fright him away, and when it is sunk a little draw it near the top towards you a little, and so let it fall again; and if your wire hook is joined with a steel ring, the bait will play better, and sink more direct: for snap, *March* is the chief month; *February*, *April*, *May*, *September* and *October* for the trowl; and though a large bait invites him most, yet a lesser takes him more surely.

To snare a *pike*; when you perceive him rise, and staying near the surface of the water, fasten about a yard and a half of strong packthread to a pole, and at the end of it a running noose of small wire, softly putting it over his head, with a quick jirk throw him to land; this is often done to young *pikes*, but the older are more wary though sometimes catched by this means, especially in ponds, as also when they come out of rivers and go a frogging in ditches in *March*, *April* and *May*.

To find and angle for Pearch.

The *pearch* spawns the beginning of *March*, and delight in a good stream of a moderate depth, abiding usually close by a hollow bank, pebbly, gravelly bottomed, with green weeds growing in it; being commonly a river fish: he bites little in winter, but in the middle of the day, yet in summer all day, if the weather be cool and cloudy, and the water shaken with the wind; but more freely from seven till ten in the morning, and from two in the afternoon till six, and sometimes till sun-set; if in the middle of summer, you must look to him when he is struck, for he is a very strong fish and will struggle hard and long; they generally go many together; and if there be a great many in a hole, if you light right on them, you may at one standing catch the greater part if you give them time to bite: but if you are too hasty in striking you may chance to miss your aim; he takes almost all manner of worms; as dew-worms, red-worm, meadow-worms, cod-bait, also the minow, loach, small frogs, wasps, hornets and humble-bees.

He

He is beſt taken with a float, reſting the bait about ſix inches from the ground, and ſometimes he is taken about mid-water: ſome uſe a ledger bait on the ground, but the firſt depth has uſually the beſt ſucceſs.

To angle for the Carp, &c.

This fiſh has always been in great eſteem, making many induſtrious to find ways to take him. He delights in ſandy or muddy bottoms, in ſtill deep water, by the ſides of a pond or river, though in a good pond he thrives beſt. He is very wary and hard to be catched. His firſt ſpawning time is about *May-day*, breeding three times a year and wonderfully encreaſes if he likes the water he is in; he lives long, though moſt diſagree as to the particular number of years; and indeed I ſee no reaſon how they ſhould be exactly known.

He bites very early in *April*, *May*, *June*, *July*, and *Auguſt*, and ſometimes all night if the weather be hot and ſtar-light: in the ſtill deep water, if you angle in the day time keep out of ſight as much as may be, therefore provide a long rod: he is very ſtrong and muſt play when ſtruck, or he'll carry off your hook by breaking the line or rod.

Uſe always the float and quill, angle for him ſometimes above and ſometimes below mid-water, as the weather is, though in mid-water he is the certainlieſt taken, eſpecially in a pond, but in rivers he is very ſhy: lay a ground-bait for him with ground malt.

The baits you uſe on your hook muſt be gentles, two or three on the hook; he takes likewiſe bobs, waſps, ſweet paſtes, marſh-worms, flag-worms, gilt-tails, dew-worms, the cod-bait and bread-grain boiled ſoft; and in *June* and *July*, in the heat of the day, he ſhews himſelf on the top of the water, and oftenеſt among the weeds, when you may take him with a well ſcoured lob-worm, angling as with a natural fly; but in this caſe keep out of ſight as much as you poſſibly can.

Obſervations on the Tench, and the beſt way to angle for him.

The *tench* ſpawns the beginning of *July*, is reckoned a very good fiſh, much coveted, yet delights in muddy or foul water, and among weeds; the ponds that are ſuitable for

for *carp* pleaſe him better than the rivers, and in pits he thrives better than in either, if they be agreeable to time, though in ſome pits they will not (notwithſtanding they breed) come to any bigneſs; and in others they will not breed at all, but they will thrive wonderfully, beyond expectation: this I believe may happen where the ſtorer is not ſkilful to diſtinguiſh males from females, but by an unlucky gueſs puts in all of one ſort. Though he covets mud, yet his fins are very large; and to know him from others, there are two little barbs at the angles or corners of his mouth; his ſcales are ſmall and ſmooth, and about his eyes are circles of a golden colour. They bite beſt from day-light to eight in the morning, and from four in the afternoon till ſun-ſet; but in the hot months, if the weather be not tempeſtuous, they many times bite all night. The beſt ſeaſon is from the beginning of *May* to the end of *September*.

He takes the cod-bait, marſh-worm, gentle, flag-worm, or red-worm well ſcoured; and to make it take the better, you may dip your bait in a little tar-water juſt before you uſe it, though the plain bait many times pleaſes him well. For want of the former baits you may uſe paſtes ſweetened with honey.

Angle for him with a float of quill, letting the bait into the water two foot, ſometimes more or leſs, but no great matter.

The Bream's haunt, and how to angle for him.

The *bream* ſpawns in the beginning of *July*, is a large bony fiſh, is found in rivers and ponds, but in the latter, if convenient, he delights moſt: he is long growing, and will be very fat, and is almoſt as great a breeder as the *carp*.

Breams ſwim divers together in a gentle ſtream, loving a ſandy, or clayiſh bottom, and the deepeſt and broadeſt part of the water. Your beſt time in the ſeaſon is to angle for him from ſun-riſe to eight o'clock, in a moderate ſtream, the water being a little ſlimy or muddy, eſpecially when a good breeze troubles the water, and in windy weather, if in a pond, he generally keeps the middle, and there you are moſt likely to find him. In the afternoon, your time is from three or four till ſun-ſet; but in a darkiſh windy day he bites at any time.

He

He is angled for with much ſucceſs from the beginning of *April* till *Michaelmas*, and may be taken at other times, except the very cold months.

He takes as baits, flag-worms, gentles, graſhoppers, their legs being off, red-worms, gilt-tails and meadow-worms well ſcoured, bobs and under water flies, eſpecially the green ones; when he bites he runs off with the bait to the farther ſhore, or as far that way as he can, and therefore you muſt give him play, for though he ſeems a fiſh made ſtrong enough, he will not much ſtruggle, but after two or three turns he falls on one ſide and may be eaſily landed.

Here you muſt angle with a float, ſo that the bait may touch the ground; you may make a ground bait for *bream* with malt, and it will draw them together.

The Barble, how to find and take him by angling.

The *barbel* ſpawns in *April*, ſometimes in *May*, is a very ſtrong fiſh, and takes his name from the barbs that hang at his mouth, is curiouſly ſhaped with ſmall ſcales. In the hot months you will find him in the ſwift ſtrong ſtream, though he ſhuns the currents, and delights ſomewhat more out of the rapidity, under ſhades of trees and weeds, where they rout in the ſands like a hog, and ſo neſt; ſome ſuppoſe him to eat much gravel and ſand, but I rather fancy he ſeeks for inſects or other food that heat and moiſture produce in the bottom of ſhallows, yet ſometimes he is found in the deep and ſwift waters, eſpecially at weirs, bridges or flood-gates, where he ſhelters among piles, or in hollow places, holding by the moſs or weeds, to prevent his being carried away by the ſtream; when winter is coming on, he retires to the ſtill deep.

His beſt biting time is early in the morning, that is, from the ſun-riſing till ten, and from four till the ſun ſets, and often later, and this principally happens from the 20th of *May* to the latter end of *Auguſt*: you muſt be wary in taking him, for he is very ſubtle, and ſtruggles long, unleſs well managed; many are found together frequently, but in *April* they are little worth, for then is the ſpawning time.

As for the baits you intend to take him with, care muſt be taken that they are very ſweet, ſuch as give him not diſ-

taſte:

taſte: angle for him with a running-line, and a bullet at the end. He takes gentles, not over ſcoured, dew-worms, new cheeſe, paſte, the young brood of waſps and hornets; and ſo cunning he is, that you will be cheated of many a bait in angling for him, if you have not a watchful eye and a quick hand; for he will nibble and ſuck it off, and ten to one, when your float ſinks, and you attempt to ſtrike, whether he has the hook in his mouth, yet often, if you ſtrike the contrary way his head lies, you may take him by the noſe, and give him play till tired, or elſe, if he be any thing large, unleſs your tackle be very ſtrong, part of it goes with him. He is not an over pleaſant fiſh to eat by reaſon he is ſomewhat dry, and very full of bones. Some ſay he is eaſy of concoction, his eggs and ſpawn vomit and purge violently.

The Trout's haunts; the beſt time to angle for him, and his baits.

The *trout* ſpawns in *October*. His uſual haunts are in ſmall purling brooks or ſwift gliding rivers, not too great. Obſerve whether their bottoms are pebble, gravel or ſmooth ſtones; for on the ſides of theſe he uſually has his reſidence, though he is often found in the deep, eſpecially a large one, alſo behind banks, blocks, ſtones, at turnings or points, where the ſtream much beats or makes a kind of whirling; he loves coverture and ſhade, from whence he may moſt eaſily ſeize his prey: but his hold or hole is uſually in deep places; he is ſeldom found among weeds, rather among boughs of trees that hang in the water, or ſhady buſhes: he plies in ſpring at the tail of the ſtream, but, as many other fiſh do, about the middle of *May*, at the upper end, ſtaying long in a place, if his hold be near it. In the hot weather he leaves the deep and goeth into the ſharp ſtreams among gravel, unleſs by the exceſſive heat of the weather, drought enſues, and then the ſtill deep delights him.

This *trout* may be taken by dibbing, or if the weather be dark, cloudy and windy, you may take him with the caſt-fly. He is in ſeaſon from *March* until *Michaelmas*, but chiefly about the end of *May*, when he is in the beſt ſeaſon; his body

body is adorned with red ſpots. The female is counted better than the male. They much affect to be near the ſource or ſpring of rivers, and where they run on lime ſtones, there the beſt of *trouts* are found.

Angle for him at the ground with a running line, with two or three ſmall pellets of lead, omitting the float, or you may take him by float angling at the ground, if you are dextrous at angling with a ſingle hair, too links from your hook; he is much ſooner taken than with two or three hairs, though you muſt be cautious he break not the line; and this is better done at the bottom than top becauſe there he has not ſo much force to ſhoot and ſpring, as on the top, and a ſingle hair next the hook, if well choſen and ſtrong, will take one of thirteen inches, if there be water room, free from wood and weeds.

He bites beſt in a water that after a flood is clearing or riſing, ſomewhat troubled, cloudy and windy weather; early in the morning is the beſt time from the middle of *April* to the end of *Auguſt*, from ſun-riſing till near eleven, and from two till ſun-ſet; but at nine in the morning and three in the afternoon are the beſt times, at the ground or fly, as the water is moſt agreeable, in *March*, the beginning of *April*, *September*, and till the 13th of *October*, and then you muſt ceaſe angling for the *trout*, to the end of *February*; after a ſhower has fallen in the evening, you will find him riſe at a gnat. In warm weather you may dib for him with the minow or loach.

The Eel, the haunt, bait and taking them, &c.

His haunts, in the day time, are uſually under the covert of tree roots, bruſh-wood, planks or piles, about flood-gates, weirs or mill-dams, in hollow holes in banks; they moſtly delight in foul ſtill water, or at leaſt ſuch as runs very ſlow with ouſy ſand, or muddy bottoms, in pits, ponds and meers.

Bait for him with a young lamprey, dew-worms, ſcoured earth-worms and very ſmall fiſh, their fins cut off, guts of chickens or other fowl, cut in ſmall lengths, lean beef, the brood of waſps; the four firſt take them day or night, but moſt of the reſt are proper for night-hooks.

Take

Take him in the day by a ledger-bait, by ſnigling, bobing, brogling: as for brogling and ſnigling the beſt method I have known is this; get a long and ſtrong line, your hook of a ſmall compaſs baited with ſcoured red-worm or dew-worms, having one end of your line in your hand, place very eaſily the upper end of your hook in the cleft of a hazle rod of a convenient length ſo that it may ſlip out as you pleaſe, and where you fancy the *eel* to be let the bait leiſurely ſink, and ſuppoſing it ſwallowed by giving time, leiſurely draw him up by a little and little, eaſy lying double, with the ſtrength of the tail, your line is endangered. This you muſt practiſe in hot weather, the waters being low.

As for bobing, taking large earth-worms out of good mould, ſcour them well in moſs, and run a ſtrong thread with a needle through them end-ways, as many as will lightly wrap a dozen times round your hand, make them into links, and faſten them to a ſtrong packthread or whip-cord, two yards long or more; make a knot about ſix or eight inches from the worms, put about three quarters of a pound of plummet made pyramidically on the cord, by the means of a hollowneſs or hole bored through it, let it ſink to the knot and fix the cord to a manageable pole. Angle with this in muddy or cloudy water, in the ſides of the ſtreams or deeps; when the *eel* or *eels* tug, let them be well faſtened by the teeth before you draw them up, then do it gently 'till on the top, and then hoiſt them quickly to land; many by this way have been taken at a time.

Some, near *eels* haunts ſink a bottle of hay looſely bound, ſtuft with fowls guts and liver, cut in long ſhreds over night, and coming early the next morning, draw it up haſtily by the rope faſtened to the band, and you'll find large *eels* bedded in it for the ſake of the prey. This may be done with a bundle of the bruſh-wood, out of which, upon pulling up, they cannot ſo eaſily get.

To angle for the Grayling or Umber.

Though this fiſh has two names given it, the former for the leſſer ſort, and the latter for the greater, yet both are the ſame ſpecies.

Their haunts are in marley clay, clear water and ſwift ſtreams, the large is accounted eighteen inches, being in ſeaſon all the year, but their prime is in *December*, when his gills and head are blackiſh, and his belly a dark grey ſtudded with black ſpots. He will bite freely, but is very tender mouthed, therefore be careful he break not his hold, though he will not ſtruggle much, as being very faint when he is hooked. Angle for him in or near the middle of the water, for his always more apt to riſe than deſcend, wherefore he is chiefly taken by a ground bait, rather than a running line; uſe for him a float of cork, if you particularly angle for him, but for a grayling or trout the running line is beſt.

As for baits, he takes brandlings, gilt-tails, meadow-worms, tag-tails, the bark-worm, flag-worm, cod-bait, natural or artificial flies, particularly the camblet-fly and a fly made of purple wool, and one made of tawny camblet hair, alſo the earth bob and clap-bait.

The Pope or Ruff, his haunts, how to angle for him, with proper baits, &c.

The pope or ruff is one, in ſhape, nature and diſpoſition, like the pearch, though in bigneſs not exceeding a large gudgeon, but of a more pleaſing taſte; he bites eagerly, and many of them are uſually together, where the water runs ſlowly and is deep; in ſandy places, fifty of them have been taken at a ſtanding. You may bait for him with the ſmall red worm, gilt-tail, meadow-worm, and other baits proper for the pearch, he biting at the ſame time the pearch does; you may ground bait with new turned up earth of a fallow, alſo with a clear ſand, you may take him with a ſingle hair, the link next the hook; the body of it is rough, and hath prickly and ſharp fins; it has its ſeaſons and nature, like the pearch, and is a very wholeſome fiſh, eating ſhort and tender.

There are abundance of them to be killed in Mouſea river in Surry.

Some particular obſervations on Gudgeon angling.

The gudgeon, though not over large, is approved among other fiſh, as a dainty, being very wholeſome food. This fiſh ſpawns twice or thrice in the year, he delights in ſharp ſtreams, with gravelly or ſandy bottoms, and ſhews the young angler extraordinary good ſport, who not being well ſkilled in chuſing, or not well knowing how to come by other baits, may take him with a ſmall red worm on the ground, or very near it, and ſeldom by reaſon of the toughneſs of his mouth, he is loſt when ſtruck. In the heat of ſummer they make to the ſhallows in rivers, but when the weeds in autumn grow of a bad taſte, or rot, and cold weather comes on, then they get together in deep places; and here it is propereſt to fiſh for them at the ground, or a little above it, if you fiſh with a float; but it may be done with a running line on the ground, without a float: as for particular baits, I have already diſcourſed of them, and among others, thoſe relating to the gudgeon.

The Bleak or Bley, to angle for him, &c.

This fiſh makes ſport, though not much valued, not being very wholeſome; it is many times deſtroy'd by a worm that breeds in his ſtomach; in hot weather he bites eagerly, and you may fiſh for him with ſeveral hooks on one line, and if you catch three or four together on the ſeveral hooks, do not fear the breaking of your line, tying them about half a foot one above the other; he is eaſily taken with gentles, ſmall red worms, and any ſmall flies at top water, by dibbing or whipping them.

Angle at middle water, or at the top, for he is uſually in motion: there is another ſort of theſe called the blackſea, better and wholeſomer than this, called by ſome the ſea-camelion, becauſe in the winter he ſeems often to change his colour. He is as good as any carp.

The Chub or Chewen, his haunts, and to angle for him.

The chub ſpawns in March, is large though timorous; is found in large rivers, having ſandy or clayey bottoms, delights much in ſtreams ſhaded with trees, as alſo in holes where many of them conſort together: he is in ſeaſon from the middle of May, till after Chriſtmas; you may take him dibbing on the top of the water, but in the hot months he keeps mid-water; in the cold weather angle at the bottom with the ledger-bait.

He bites from ſun riſing till eight, and from three till ſun-ſet; the large one, when ſtruck, is ſooneſt tired; the leſs will ſtruggle longer, and in ſun-ſhiny weather they bite, in winter the middle of the day.

He ſcarcely refuſes any bait, if not too large; as lamprey's pride, the eel's blood, dew-worms ſcoured in moſs and gravel, clap-baits, ſmall nails, white and black cheeſe paſte, the marrow of an ox or cow's back, a beetle with the legs off, and all ſorts of baits bred on trees, plants and herbs, cod baits, broods of waſps, hornets and humble bees, the fat of ruſty bacon, dors, graſhoppers, alſo a fly, and a cod-bait, and an oak-worm on the hook together, infallibly takes him in the hot months.

When he is taken, he muſt be eaten the ſame day, elſe will not be ſo good; moſt eſteem his head the beſt part.

Dace or Dare, and Roach, their haunts, baits, &c. and how to angle for them.

As theſe delight in ponds or rivers with gravelly bottoms or ſand, ſo they love deep clear waters, ſhaded with trees, either in rivers or elſewhere; the dace ſpawn about the middle of March, and are in ſeaſon three weeks after. The fleſh is ſoft, and ſweet in taſte.

You muſt angle for the dace within two inches of the bottom, and ſometimes the bait may touch it if it is worms, but if with flies, at the top of the water, or within an inch.

The roach ſpawns about the middle of May, and is ſo healthful, that his ſoundneſs has created a common ſaying, though it often cauſes ſome to tell lies. The beſt roach, by reaſon of the abundance of ſoil, are found in the Thames near London; angle for him about two feet in the water: in temperate weather they bite all day long. The float angle takes them beſt.

Their baits are numerous as their fry, viz. worms bred on trees, plants, or herbs, gentles, cod-baits, graſhoppers with the legs off, flies artificial or natural, particularly the ant-fly, meadow worms ſcoured, bread corn boiled. The roach in ponds is chiefly found under the water docks, if there be any, and indeed few ſmall come amiſs to them.

The Flounder or Flook's haunts, baits, and angling.

It is properly a ſalt water fiſh, and is no where but in rivers that have communication with the ſea; he is brought up by the tide, and loſing himſelf into freſh ſtreams, he after ſome time minds not his way back again. He loves gentle ſtreams, gravelly and ſandy bottoms, is very ſhy, and not eaſily taken; he bites all the day in May, June, July, and the beginning of Auguſt, though he will nibble much about the hook, and ſuck off the bait, if you be not wary to keep it in motion, which hinders him from ſeeing the hook, if he does, away he flies from it, ſometimes in the ſhallow. He takes ſcoured meadow or marſh worms, earth worms, gentles, the brood of waſps, gilt-tails and brandlings. He is to be angled for with the float, and your bait muſt touch the ground. He is of good nouriſhment, ſtrengthens the ſtomach, cauſes appetite, and helps the ſpleen.

To take the Smelt with an angle.

As this fiſh generally lies at the tail of ſhips, or in brooks, ſo you fiſh for him at half tide, with a gentle. The firſt you catch cut in ſmall pieces about the bigneſs of a gentle, bait your hook with them, and you will find ſport to admiration.

The Minow or Pearch, Loach, and Bullhead or Miller's thumb, Lampreys.

As they are rather baits for other fiſh than valuable in themſelves, ſo the firſt is taken with ſmall worms, brandling, and gilt-tails; the two latter with gilt-tails, meadow-worms at the ground. Lampreys are taken as the eel, being much of that nature, therefore I avoid enlarging thereon.

Minows feed by licking one another; the loach is good for women with child, and are all very nouriſhing.

Obſervations on, and rules for natural fly-angling.

It is a nice point in angling, requiring a quick or ſharp eye, and wary hand; it is termed by artiſts, dibbling, diping, or dapeing, and is performed on the ſurface of the water, or at moſt ſometimes not letting the bait ſink above two or three inches under, nor that, unleſs the oak-fly for the chub or trout has joined to it a clap-bait or cod-bait.

This muſt ever be done in clear water, without lead or float, in the evening of a hot day, but in a hot calm day is beſt, and the ſtill deep is to be preferred before the ſtream; though on the ſide of a ſtream when the water is clearing after great rains or floods, is very proper; and all hours you may dib with the green drake fly; but if you needs muſt do it in the ſtream, uſe the ſtone-fly, which is proper early or late; if it be windy in the evening, take the artificial ſtone-fly, for then in the ſtream the fiſh riſe beſt, and are the ſooneſt taken; and if you pull off the wings, you may angle in the water with it; it will alſo take very much in a ſtream near the bottom, but you muſt take care to keep out of ſight as much as poſſible, and keep your fly in motion, that it may appear to the fiſh to be alive.

In dibbing for dace, roach, or chub, let not your motion be ſwift, if you can perceive any of them coming towards it, but make two or three ſhort removes, as if they were at reſt, or the fly was ſwimming or playing; then let it gently glide with the ſtream, if poſſible towards the fiſh; but if it

be ſlow or ſtanding water, you muſt keep it moving with your hand, not juſt upon him, but ſideways and ſlopeing by him, leſt it ſhould eſcape him, it will make him mind it the more; for only the trout, if it be moved ſwiftly, will, if any, certainly follow it.

In a calm, dibbing is not ſo ſafe as when a pretty good gale ſtirs the water, for then neither you nor the deceit put on the fiſh by an artificial fly is ſo eaſily diſcovered; and then few natural flies at liberty can lie on the water; but for want of choice, they will ſnap at the firſt that comes in their way, biting more eagerly through hunger. If they will not riſe at the top, try them a little lower, for ſome will be ſooner taken, as the roach particularly, by dibbing under water than at the top. Roach, dace, and chub, will ſometimes be pleaſed with an artificial fly, eſpecially if an earth-bob, cod-bait, earth-worm or gentle, be put on the point of a hook; or an oak-worm is very pleaſing on the top, or under the water.

At dibbing and trailing, trout and ſalmon-ſmelts will take an artificial fly well, particularly the ſtone-fly and green-drake, early, or late in the evening. And if you fiſh for ſalmon-ſmelt, roach, chub or dace, with the dub-fly, put on a gentle, waſp, cod-bait, or clap-bait; let it ſtand well on the point of your hook; when the wind furls the water, and few flies appear on or over it, is the beſt time to angle with the fly either natural or artificial; for, having no variety or choice, they will quickly take your bait. If it be a ſun-ſhiny day get under the ſhade of trees if you can, that neither your ſhadow nor that of your rod may appear, and ſo fright them away. If you find the fiſh riſe not towards the top, ſink your fly by degrees, and try even to middle-water, for before theſe ſort of flies are naturally in ſeaſon, the fiſh very rarely riſe at them; wherefore, to know this, that you miſtake not in your baiting, obſerve what flies are on the water, or flying near over it, or are on the buſhes or trees near ponds or rivers, and that fly which ſwarms there the moſt is chief in ſeaſon, and is to be uſed either natural, or to be imitated by art. Some open the firſt fiſh they take, and look into its ſtomach to ſee what

indigeſted

indigeſted food there remains, and from thence do take their meaſures, though uncertain; for either it muſt be partly conſumed, or ſo diſcoloured that it cannot well be known; beſides, fiſh for extreme hunger take in ſuch food at one time as at another they altogether diſlike.

Artificial fly angling.

Artificial dub-fly or caſt-fly angling is ſomewhat more difficult, and requireth more cunning than the former, being more readily learned by ſeeing it done, than by printed directions: however, I doubt not but to give a ſatisfactory account of it to the angler.

The firſt thing to be materially conſidered is, to know and chuſe the proper colours of flies in ſeaſon when you angle, and theſe muſt be proportioned to the places you fiſh in; for there are different haunts of flies, and are found much earlier in ſome places than in others, as the ſeaſon proves hot or cold; a warm ſpring brings them early, but the contrary later, ſometimes by a month, and always ſooner in high grounds than in thoſe that are low, marſhy, or boggy.

The fly required being got, your next buſineſs is to make one in colour, ſhape, proportion of body and wings as like it as poſſible, always having the natural one as a pattern; and to do this, you muſt have in readineſs bear's hair of divers colours, camel's hair ſad, light, and of a middle indifferent colour, badger's hair, ſpaniel's hair, ſheep's wool, hog's hair, hog-down, as is comb'd, from the roots and briſtles of a hog, camblets, and mohairs of divers colours, cow's hair, abortive calves and colts hair, furs of ſquirrels tails, the tails of black cats, yellow and dun cats, of hare's neck, the fern colour'd ferret's fur, martin's yellow fur, filmer's fur, tails of white weaſels, moles, black rabbits, down of a fox's cub, aſh colour at the roots of fox, fur that comes off the otter and otter-cub, blackiſh and brown badger's hair that has been in a ſkinner's lime-pit; hackles of feathers about a cock or capon's neck, and ſuch as hang looſely down each ſide of the tail, of various colours, particularly to make the palmer-fly or inſect called the

the wood-bed; you muſt have feathers of all ſorts of fowl, and thoſe coloured ones required that you cannot get natural, you may dye.

You muſt likewiſe have caddows or blankets, from which are got dubbings, or ſoft cuſhions made of ſkins of abortive calves and colts, ſilk ſilver wire, gold twiſt, white and yellow bees-wax for ground-work, or to frame the bodies and heads on, as the nature of the fly more or leſs requires it, and a neat pair of ſharp pointed ſciſſars, to trim and ſhape the work with.

How to make the dub-fly.

Wet your materials to know how they will hold colour; for though dry, they may appear of the right colour, but may alter being wetted, and conſequently be too light or too dark. This done, take the hook in your left hand, betwixt your fore-finger and thumb, the ſhanks back upwards, and ſtrong ſilk of that colour the fly requires, wax it with wax of the ſame colour, then draw it to the head of the ſhank betwixt the finger and thumb, and whip it about the bare hook two or three times; draw your line between your thumb and finger, holding the hook ſo faſt, that it may only have a ſpace to paſs by; ſo joining the hook and line, put on the wings, faſhion the body and head, by twiſting the dubbing on your waxed ſilk, and lapping it on, then work it by degrees towards the head, and part the wings of an even length, or the fly will not ſwim upright: then turn it into a proper ſhape, by nipping off the ſuperfluous dubbing from the ſilk, ſo faſten and accoutre the fly. It would be convenient to ſee one done by an experienced angler, and then theſe directions will be eaſy to you.

Directions relating to dub-flies, and angling with them.

1. When you proportion your dub-fly, conſider the largeneſs or ſmallneſs of the fiſh you intend it for, and be ſure the belly of it is the exact colour, becauſe that is moſt obvious.

2. Let the tail of the fly be only to the bend of the hook, and not come unto the bent of it.

3. If

3. If the trout at the top of the water refuſe it, the day is not proper for it, or the fly is either out of ſeaſon or ill made.

When you angle with the dub-fly, it muſt be in ſuch a river or water as is clear, after rain, or in a river a little diſcoloured with moſs or bogs, in mooriſh places, or elſe in a cloudy or gloomy day, when the water is ſtirred by gentle gales; or if the winds be pretty high, they will riſe in the plain deep; but in little wind, the beſt is to angle in the ſtream.

Keep your fly in continual motion in all weathers, to prevent the fiſh from diſcerning the fraud; in clear and low water, let the body of the fly be the ſmaller, and the wings very ſlender. In dark weather and thick water, let the fly be of a dark colour, but it muſt be pretty large body and wings, the better to be diſcovered; in a clear day, a light coloured fly is preferable.

A rod for the dub-fly ſhould be five yards at leaſt, and the line about ſeven, or ſomewhat more, if the water be free from incumbrance of weeds, &c. and to adapt your fly to the colour of the water more properly, have three of a ſort, the one light, the next a degree darker, and the third the true colour of the natural fly.

In caſting, obſerve to do it always before you, that it may fall on the water, and no part of the line daſh to ſcare away the fiſh: and do it if you can without making any circle in the water: but if the wind be high, ſome part muſt be in the water, to keep the fly from being blown out. Take your ſtanding ſo, if poſſible, that the ſun may be in your face, and wind to your back.

In ſtill or ſlow water, caſt your fly almoſt acroſs the river or pond, and draw it towards you gently a little way, that you break not the water, or put it in trouble, and let it bear with the current, if there be any, fiſhing downwards and not upwards of the river. Thus having, as I hope, given plain inſtructions in theſe matters, to be underſtood by eaſy capacities, I proceed to deſcribe artificial flies, for the proper month of angling with them.

Artificial

Artificial flies, proper in the month of the fiſhing ſeaſon, and how to make them.

In *February*, the palmer-fly or plain hackle muſt have a rough, black body, which may be done with black ſpaniel's hair, or the whirl of an oſtrich feather, and the red hackle of a capon all over.

The prince dun, that may be dubbed of the down of a fox cub, with haſh-coloured ſilk, the wings of a ſtare's feather; this muſt be made little.

The little red, brown dub, with the ſoft hair of the black ſpot of a hog's ear, the wings of mallards feathers, near the white, wrap it on with red ſilk.

March. The green tail may be made of the brown hair of a ſpaniel, taken from the outſide of the ear, and a little from the extreme of the tail.

Moriſh brown may be dubbed with black ſheep's wool, red ſilk, and the wings made of a partridge's wing-feather.

Thorn-tree fly dub, of a very good black, mix a little Iſabella coloured mohair; with it make a little body, and the wings of a mallard's brighteſt feathers.

The early bright brown, make of the hair of a brown ſpaniel, that of the flank of a red cow, and wing it with the grey feather of a wild duck.

April. The violet fly, which takes excellently from the ſixth to the tenth, made of bear's hair a light dun, mixed with violet ſtuff, wing it with the greaſy feather of a mallard. The horſe-fleſh fly, which laſt all this month, dub with pink colours, blue mohair and tammy, let the head be a dark brown and the wings of a light colour.

The ſmall bright brown is very well taken in a clear day and water, make it of ſpaniel's fur with a light grey wing.

May. The green drake, an excellent killer, dub on a large hook with camel's hair, bright bear's hair, ſoft down comb'd from the briſtles of a hog, mix yellow camblet; let the body be long, and rib it with green ſilk mixed with yellow; let the whiſks of his tail be the long

hair

hair of fables, his wings the light grey feather of a mallard dyed yellow.

The ſtone-fly, dub with dun bear's hair, mix it with a little brown and yellow camblet, that ſhe may be yellower on the belly and tail than any other part, to be the better liked by the fiſh, who moſtly eye the belly of baits; and to adorn it the more, place two or three hairs of the beard of a black cat on the top of the hook, in the whipping or arming, and in warping on your dubbing, ſtaring one from another ſomething upright: rib her with yellow ſilk, make the wings long and large, of the dark grey feather of a mallard, or other ſuch like feather.

The grey drake comes in when the great ones go out, much of ſhape with it, but in colour differs, and muſt be made of a paler and more blueiſh, yellow and green, his ribs quite down his body muſt be of black, with black ſhining wings very thin, and may be made of the grey feathers of a mallard, the down under hogs briſtles, and the black hair of a ſpaniel, and the whiſks of his tail, or the beard of a black cat.

June. The ant-fly is dubbed with brown and red camblet, the wing of the feathers of a light grey pigeon.

The purple fly, with purple wool mixed with light brow bear's hair, the wings of a ſtare's feather, dub it with purple ſilk.

The brown hackle made of the lighteſt brown hair of a ſomewhat grown colt, with a red hackle or cock's neck feather over it, wrapped with hair colour or aſh coloured ſilk.

July. Orange-fly, dub this with orange coloured cruel or wool, and the feather of a blackbird's wing.

The waſp-fly. Do this with brown dubbing, or elſe with the hair of a black cat's tail; rib it with yellow ſilk, and make the wings of the grey feather of a mallard's wing.

The blue dun muſt be made with the down of a water mouſe, and the blueiſh down found on an old fox; mix them well together, and dub with ſad aſh coloured ſilk; the feather of a ſtare's quill will furniſh you with wings.

Auguſt.

Auguſt. The late ant-fly may be dubbed of the hair of a cow that is of a blackiſh brown, and for the tagging of the tails wrap in ſome red, and make the wing of a dark feather; this fly takes admirably.

The fern-fly muſt properly be dubbed with the wool taken from a hare's neck, of the colour of fern, when dry, make the wings of the darkiſh grey feather of a mallard.

The hearth-fly, dub of the wool of an aged black ewe, with ſome grey hair to accommodate the body and head, dub with black ſilk, and take the light feather of a ſtare for the wings.

September. The little blue dun made of the fur of a water mouſe, dub it with ſad aſh coloured ſilk, and wing it with the feather of a blue pigeon.

The late badger. Do this with badger's hair that is black, whip with red ſilk, and uſe a darkiſh grey mallard's feather for the wings.

The camel broom-fly, pull out for dubbing, the hair in the lime of old wall, whip it with red ſilk, make of the wings of a ſtare's lighteſt feather.

October. This month is ſupplied by the flies of the former, for all being now upon their going away, almoſt any will do. And thus, reader, keeping to my intended brevity, having picked you out the beſt killing flies from a great many more, you by knowing how to make theſe may eaſily imitate all others, having a natural fly before you, and chuſing materials ſuitable to its colour, by ſhaping her according to the other; then promiſe yourſelf ſucceſs in angling with her as directed.

Various but curious obſervations in Angling; divers ways to angle, not commonly known.

Note, that ſometimes all ſorts of fiſh take baits at the ground, when but ſome ſorts will take the fly at the top of the water; and therefore to angle for a trout with worm, chuſe the running line without any float, only ſmall plummets in their proper places. This is ſucceſsful at the ground, either in clear or muddy water.

As for the latter uſe a line a little more than half the length of the rod, and ſometimes leſs than that length, and the lowermoſt links muſt be at leaſt three hairs, and one at top of four, whereof have a water nooſe at its bottom; ſo proceed with links of five or ſix hairs a piece till you come to the topmoſt, make the lower of cheſnut colour, or ſorrel brown. Then to your reed or cane, have a top neither too ſtiff nor too feeble, but between both; the cane about three yards and a half long, and the top about a yard and a half, or near two yards, in one or two pieces, and five or ſix inches of whalebone, ſmooth, round, and pliant.

Obſerve to lead your line as is conſiſtent with the water, in rough ſtreams more than in ſmall gentle ſtreams, and leaſt of all in ſtill water; then carry the top or point of your rod level with your hand, and ſo you will by the point of your rod perceive the bite at the ground, then ſtrike ſtrait and gently upwards, and by a little ſlacking your hand before, you will give the fiſh time the better to take the bait.

If a large trout you angle for in muddy water, then it requires ſome art in baiting of your hook, as ſuppoſe the bait is a dew-worm, here you muſt thruſt the hook in towards the tail, a little above the middle, and out again below the head, then draw him above the arming of the hook, or whipping, ſo put the point into the head of the worm, until it is very near the place where the point of the hook firſt came out, and ſo draw back the worm, or that part that was above the ſhank. This hook ſhould be indifferent large.

To bait two worms in muddy water for a trout, &c. from eight to ten inches: take meadow worms or brandlings, or a brandling and gilt-tail, and run the point of the hook in at the head down the body, till it paſs the knot, or come to the middle of the worm; then ſtir it above the arming or whipping, put on the other, by running the hook in the ſame manner, and let the head of it juſt cover the point of the hook, then ſlip the firſt down till the knots or middle of both worms meet together; and thus you

may do by any other worms, for other fiſh, as by the foregoing directions you find they take them.

Directions for angling with the running line in clear water.

Put a gilt-tail and ſmall brandling on your hook, before directed, well ſcoured, and here your hook muſt be much ſmaller than in muddy water, two or three of the lowermoſt links of your line of a ſingle hair, ſo riſe from two or tree, or four, of a grey or duſkiſh white, the line about two yards ſhorter than the rod, leaded with a ſmall black plummet.

Angle with this in a ſtream always up it, in a river with a light hand, ſtill caſting up the worm before you; let the rod be as the former: and thus you may angle for ſalmon-ſmelts, trout, or grayling, to whoſe proper baits I refer you in my treatiſe of baits in this book.

Directions for the top water angling with a worm.

Your line in this caſe muſt be longer than your rod, without any plummet or float, drawing your bait down and up the ſtream, in a clear day, with a gentle hand, that it may glide as if were ſwimming, and your bait here muſt be a gilt-tail or brandling, keep it from the ſhore, and free from entanglement of weeds, woods, ruſhes, or other incumbrances that hinder ſport.

Further directions for float angling.

Here your line muſt be two or three feet longer than rrod in rivers, but in ponds and pits ſomething ſhorter. Angling in clear water for ſalmon-ſmelts, trouts, or graylings you muſt put but one hair next the hook, but in muddy water, and for other fiſh, two or three, obſerving the running line and rod for the tench, and proportion this to it, lead it moderately, but ſo that it may keep the line ſtraight and even; but for tench, carp, barbel, or chub, your rod and line muſt have an additional ſtrength in the thickneſs of the one and the number of hairs in the other: and your float manageable in the water, proportioned according to the ſwiftneſs or ſlowneſs of the water,

water, but with one worm, the water being very clear; and obſerve for ſome ſort of fiſh, as flounders, ſalmon-ſmelts, bream, and gudgeon, your bait muſt drag on the ground; but for other ſorts, as, tench, roach, bleak, pike, ruff, and carp, at mid-water; for grayling and peatch, at ſix or nine inches from the bottom. The chub is often taken at bottom, mid-water and top.

You may uſe the divers ſorts of baits, angling with a float, but ground baits are moſt frequently uſed, and with ſucceſs.

Directions for Drabling.

By this, barbels of a large ſize are taken; to do it compleatly, obſerve theſe rules.

Have a ſtrong line of ſix yards, which, before you faſten it to your rod, muſt be put through a piece of lead, that if the fiſh bite, it may ſlip to and fro, and that the water may ſomething move it on the ground; bait it with a pretty large lob-worm well ſcoured, and ſo by its motion, the barbel will be enticed into the danger without ſuſpicion. The beſt places are in running water near piles, or under wooden bridges, ſupported with oaks floated and ſlimy.

Angling with the ledger bait.

This is uſed for variety of exerciſe, to give reſt to the angler, and ſo differs from others that are called walking baits, and this is, when the bait continues to reſt in one fixed and certain place.

Here you muſt take off your float, but let the lead remain, and within half a yard of the top of the line wrap a thin plate of lead, an inch and a half long, and pretty broad, viz. about an inch; ſo faſten your line to your rod, caſt in your bait either into a ſtill ſlow draught, or gentle ſtream, and when it is at the bottom, you may ſtick your rod in the bank of the river, or hold it in your hand at diſcretion, and by the bending of the rod, or motion of the lead at top, you will perceive when the fiſh bite: give her

ſome time, and ſtrike contrary to where her head lies. The chub and eel are ſucceſsfully taken this way.

To lay night hooks.

To do this effectually, procure a ſmall cord, which may be about ſixteen yards long, and to this, at equal diſtances, tie five or ſix fine twiſted flax or ſilk lines, about eighteen inches each, of the thickneſs of your trowling line, faſten them ſo that they may be eaſily removed, and put on again, whip to the ends of each of them a pretty ſtrong hook, but with a loach, minow, or bull-head, the fins and gills cut off; or, theſe being wanting, the ſeven eyes, eel brood, ſmall roach, gudgeon, the pith of an ox or cow's back-bone, &c. will ſerve for the fiſh; put the point of the hook in the tail, and out at the mouth, ſo that the fiſh's head may have a reſting in the hook's bent, and that the point may not be diſcovered, cover it with a worm, caſting the cord, by a weight, over the river, ſtream or pond, faſten both ends to ſtakes on either ſide; and be there early in the morning, and expect chub, large eels, trout, or pike, but for a pike keep the bait with a float about a foot or ſomething more from the bottom.

For this, to gather the fiſh, you may bait the ground with blood and grains, or ſuet made up in ſweet earth, taken from under the green ſward, or paſtes, &c.

Choice receipts, or rare ſecrets, never before made public.

Take oil of amber, roſemary and myrrh, an equal quantity, infuſe in them any worms, or mingle paſte with them, and the fiſh, if near, will haſten to the bait ſo dipped, and then not have power to go away, till ſhe either nibbles off the bait, or is taken.

Ground-bait for carp, with unprickled ſamphire bruiſed and made into balls, with walnut oil. This likewiſe allures tench and bream.

Over night mix bean flour with a little honey, wet it with rectified ſpirits of wine, and a little oil of turpentine, make it up with little pellets, and ſuch fiſh as nibble it, when thrown in, will be ſtupified, ſo that in the morning coming

coming to themſelves a little, they will bite very eagerly, as being after their drunken fit, exceeding hungry.

A ſpecial winter bait to get and preſerve.

When plowing begins in autumn, before any froſts come that are forcible, to make entrance into the earth, obſerve where the ploughs are going, if there be ſtore of crows, lighted on the ground, eſpecially in that which is heathy, ſandy, or green land, follow, and you will find a white worm bigger than a gentle, having a red head, which is held to breed of the ſpawn or egg of a beetle left in thoſe holes ſhe digs in the ground under horſe or cow dung, which in March or April, turns to a beetle again: you may put about two quarts of theſe into about half a buſhel of the ſame mould: when you gather them, put them in a tub or other veſſel, where the froſt or wind may not come to kill them, and by theſe means, when moſt other baits are out, you may be provided all the ſeaſonable times in winter, and early in the ſpring.

Unſeaſonable times to angle in.

Having ſpoke much of proper times to accommodate the angler, I ſhall now ſpeak ſomething more of unſeaſonable ones, that thoſe who are ignorant in this art, as to the niceties of it, may not looſe their labour.

In the morning, either in the ſpring or advancing of the ſeaſon, if a hoary froſt happen, the fiſh will be backward in biting that day, and little ſport can be expected, for they will not freely riſe, except in the evening; and ſoon after they have ſpawned they will not bite to the purpoſe, till with graſs and weeds they have well purged and ſcoured themſelves, ſo that they may by that means recover their ſtrength and appetite.

'Tis not proper to fiſh when the north or eaſt winds are ſharp.

In brooks that are ſmall and clear, where the water is kept up by mills or dams, it is not good angling, for there eſpecially the trout keeps her hole, and others bite faintly.

Several other uſeful obſervations and directions.

Be ſure, always to keep your ſhadow off the water, and therefore let the ſun be in your face, or on one ſide of you when you angle, keeping out of ſight and making no noiſe; and when you are bent for trout, you need make but three or four eſſays with the ground bait or fly; for if it comes not then to bite or offer, either there is not any there, or they keep cloſe in their holes.

To catch fiſh.

Take nettles, cinguefoin, and chop ſmall, then mix ſome juice of houſleek with it, rub your hands therewith, and throw it into the water, and keep your hands in the water, and the fiſh will come to them, that you may take them: or, take heart-wort and lime, mingle them together, and throw it into a ſtanding water, and it will fox them, that you take them with your hands.

To take pike as he lies ſleeping and ſunning in fair weather, with a loop or net.

March and *Auguſt* the beſt times. Take a long pole or rod that is light and ſtraight, on the ſmall end faſten a running loop of twiſted horſe hair and ſilk, of a large compaſs, which gently draw on him, when it is five or ſix inches over his gill, hoiſt him up, if it is a ſmall pike, draw it not ſo far on, and make no noiſe in walking or ſpeaking: if he lies ſo that you cannot conveniently nooſe him, touch his tail with the rod, and he will turn as you pleaſe, alſo with a hand net, putting it gently under water, guide it juſt under him, and lift it ſoftly till you almoſt touch him, and then do it as quick as you can.

To invite fiſh.

If you take occulis indicus, and make little balls of it with cummin, old cheeſe, wheat flour and wine, (let the balls be no bigger than peaſe) and throw them in a ſtanding water or calm places where fiſh are, all that taſte of it

will be presently stupified, swimming to the shore as if they were drunk, so that you may take them with your hand.

To make and order fish ponds.

Mooriſh ground, and ſuch as is full of ſprings is beſt; the firſt breeds them well, the laſt prevents their being ſtolen; next, let your pond be ſo ordered, that it may receive the rain water that falls from the hills, for that mightily refreſhes them; and if your pond can receive the piſs of horſes and other cattle, they will produce the largeſt and fatteſt fiſh. Let your pond's head be at the loweſt part of the ground, and let the flood gates have a quick and ſwift fall, that when you go to empty it you may not be too long about it: in building your pond, the beſt way is to drive a row of ſtakes ſix or ſeven feet long, and ſix or ſeven inches ſquare, and four feet diſtance; elm is better than oak; drive them in the length of the pond's head, and ram the firſt row four feet and a half deep, then they will be ſtrong. Next dig your pond and throw the earth among the ſtakes and piles; when they are covered well, drive another row over them, and ram the earth in the void places, that it lie cloſe and keep the water in the better; and thus you muſt continue ſtake on ſtake, ramming the earth till the head be as high as you would have it.

Let the inſide of the dam be ſmooth, that no current may have power over it; let your pond carry ſix feet water, and be eight feet deep, to receive the rains that fall into it: floor the bottom with large turfs of flot graſs, cloſe joined and ſtaked down, ſtake alſo on the pond ſide ſeveral faggots of light wood, but not oak, for that is bitter and offenſive: theſe faggots ſhelter the fiſh, and after they caſt their ſpawn preſerve them from vermin, and the young fiſh from devourers; let them alſo have ſome retiring places by roots of trees, hollow banks, both to cheriſh them in cold and heat, and preſerve them from danger; carp, tench, and bream, ſtore by themſelves; pearch and pike, by themſelves; put into it either minows or dace, but roach are injurious to all ponds and great breeders. Ponds with ſtrong ſandy bottoms, that lie warm and out of the wind,

with

with nut-trees and willows alſo ſheltered, are the beſt for carp to breed in, and new made ponds breed better than old, that are full of weeds and mud, therefore every three or four years cleanſe them from the mud filth. To make a ſtore pond, ſow it, put in all ſpawners, or all millers; obſerve, that ſtore ponds afford the largeſt and fatteſt carp. In a breeding pond put three ſpawners to one miller. Draw your pond about Allhallontide, and keep of females a ſufficient number for breeding. Indeed, you ought not to kill any of them. They will live and breed fifty or ſixty years; but you may kill all live males that are about three years old, and put the reſt, that are three, two, or one year old into the pond again, as many of them as the pond will maintain; this do once every year.

Feed your pike, carp, and other fiſh, with bread, grains; chippings of bread, entrails of chickens, &c.

GAME-COCKS AND COCK-FIGHTING.

Of the choice of Cocks.

THE beſt properties for the choice of fighting-cocks, is their ſhape, colour and courage, and ſharp heels or ſpurs. As to their ſhape, the middle ſized ones are eſteemed the beſt, as being the ſooneſt and eaſieſt matched, as alſo nimbleſt and generally of the moſt courage: the ſmall ſized ones are weak and tedious in battle.

The ſhape.

He ſhould be of a proud and upright ſhape, with a ſmall head, a quick large eye with a ſtrong back, his ſpurs long, rough, and ſharp, a little bending inwards.

His colour.

The grey pile, yellow pile, or red with the black breaſt, is eſteemed the beſt; the pied is not ſo good, and the white and dun worſt of all.

If

If he is red about the head, like ſcarlet, it is a ſign of ſtrength, luſt and courage; but if pale it is a ſign of faintneſs and ſickneſs.

His courage.

His courage is ſhewed by his walk, treading, and pride of his going, and in pen by his frequent crowing: for the ſharpneſs of his heel, or, as the cock maſters call it, the narrow heel is only ſeen in his fighting, or the cock is ſaid to be ſharp heeled, or narrow heeled, which every time he riſes, hits and draws blood of his adverſary, gilding (as they term it) his ſpurs in blood, and, every blow threatening the other's death.

Of breeding.

The breeding cocks for battle, are much different from thoſe of the dunghill; for they are like birds of prey, in which the female is of better eſteem than the male; and ſo in the breeding be ſure that the hens be right, that is, they muſt be of a right plume, as grey, grizzle, ſpeckled or yellowiſh.

Black or brown is not amiſs, their bodies large, and well pouked behind for large eggs, and well tufted on the crown, which ſhows good courage.

If they have weapons it is the better; alſo they muſt be of good courage, otherwiſe their chickens will not be good.

And it is obſervable, that the perfect hen from a dunghill cock, will bring a good chicken; but the beſt cock from a dunghill hen, can never get a good one; and the beſt ſeaſon of the year to breed in, is from the increaſe of the moon in February, to the increaſe of the moon in March, for a March bird is of far greater eſteem than thoſe bred at other times.

Let the pen where ſhe ſits be placed warm, with ſoft ſweet ſtraw therein for her neſt, they being much tenderer than the dunghill hens, and permit no other fowl to come where ſhe ſits, for that will diſturb her.

You

You ſhould obſerve, if ſhe be buſy in turning her eggs (being a good ſign) if not, do it at ſuch times as ſhe riſes from her neſt; and be ſure that ſhe has always meat and water by her, leſt when ſhe riſes ſhe ſhould ſtay too long to ſeek food, and ſo her eggs ſhould be chilled and ſpoiled.

Likewiſe in the place where ſhe ſits, let there be ſand, gravel, and fine ſifted aſhes, to bath and trim herſelf at pleaſure.

In about three weeks ſhe will hatch, and obſerve that if ſhe do not cover and keep the firſt warm till the reſt are hatched, take thoſe from her, and keep them warm in wool by the fire till all are hatched, and then put them under her, keeping both the hen and chickens very warm, not ſuffering them to go abroad for three weeks or a month in the cold; for they are ſo tender, that cold will kill them.

Let them have plenty of food, as oatmeal, cheeſeparings, fine ſmall wheat, and the like, and a large room to walk in, with a boarded floor; for that of earth or brick, is too cold or moiſt.

After three or four weeks, let them walk in your court-yard, or garden, to pick worms, provided there are no ſinks or puddles of ſtinking water, which is as bad as poiſon for them to drink, engendering corrupt diſeaſes.

After this manner keep them till you can know the cock chickens from the hens; and when you perceive their combs or wattles to appear, cut them off, anoint the ſore with ſweet butter, till well; and this will make them have fine ſmall, ſlender, and ſmooth heads; whereas if you let the combs grow to that bigneſs, and then cut them off, it will cauſe them to have gouty thick heads, with great lumps; neither is the flux of blood good, for the leaſt loſs of blood in a feathered fowl, is very dangerous.

Let the cock chickens go with their hens, till they begin to fight one with another; but then ſeparate them in ſeveral walks, and that walk is the beſt, that is freeſt from the reſort of others.

Let the feeding places be upon ſoft dry ground, or upon boards; for to breed them upon pavements, or on plaiſter floors, will make their beaks blunt and weak, ſo that it will hinder their holding faſt.

Any

Any white corn, as oats, barley or wheat, is good food for a cock in his walk; ſo are toaſt or cruſts of bread ſteeped in beer or wine, for it will both ſcour and cool them inwardly.

If your chickens begin to crow at about ſix months clear and loud, or at unſeaſonable times, it is a ſign of cowardice and falſhood, ſo that they are not worth the rearing; for the true cock is very long before he can get his voice, and then he obſerves his hours.

To one cock four or five hens are ſufficient; for they are of ſo hot a nature, and will tread ſo much, that they ſoon conſume their natural ſtrength.

At two years old you may put a cock to the battle, as not being before perfect and compleat in every member; for by ſuffering him to fight when his ſpurs are but warts, you may know his courage, but not his goodneſs.

You muſt alſo be circumſpect about the perch whereon he roofteth; for if it be too ſmall in the gripe, or crooked, or ſo ill placed that he cannot ſit without ſtradling, it will make him uneven heeled, and by conſequence no good ſtriker.

The beſt way is to make a row of little perches, not above ſeven or eight inches long, and about a foot from the ground, ſo that with eaſe they may go up to them: and being ſet, muſt have their legs cloſe, the ſhortneſs of the perch not admitting otherwiſe; and it is a maxim, "He that is a cloſe ſitter, is always a narrow ſtriker."

You muſt always be careful, that when your cock doth leap from the perch, the ground be ſoft whereupon he lighteth; for hard ground cauſeth goutineſs.

Of dieting and ordering cocks.

For dieting and ordering a cock for the battle, which is the principal thing, obſerve theſe directions.

The beſt time to take up your cocks, is the latter end of Auguſt, and having viewed them well, and they are ſound, hard feathered, and full ſummed, put them in ſeveral pens.

Their

Their pens ſhould be made of cloſe boards, well joined together all but the forepart, which muſt be made open like a grate, the bars about two inches apart, and before the grate two large troughs of ſoft wood, the one for water, and the other for meat; the door of the grate to be made to lift up and down, and of ſuch largeneſs, as with eaſe to put the cock in, and take him out, and to clean the pen daily to keep it ſweet.

The pen ſhould be at leaſt three feet high, and two feet ſquare, and of theſe many may be joined in one front, according to the uſe you have for them.

For the firſt three or four days they are put in their pens, feed them only with old wheat bread, the cruſt pared away, and cut into little bits, with which feed them at ſun riſing, and ſun ſet, giving them about a handful at a time; and be ſure let him not be without good freſh water.

After they have been thus fed four days, and their crops cleared of the corn, worms, and other coarſe feeding, in the morning take them out of their pens, putting a pair of hots upon each of their heels, which hots are ſoft bombaſted rolls of leather, covering their ſpurs, that they cannot hurt or bruiſe one another, ſo ſetting them down upon the graſs, (that is two at a time) let them fight and baffle one another for a good while, provided they do not wound or draw blood of each other, and this is called ſparring of cocks.

The reaſon of thus exerciſing them, is to chaſe and heat the bodies, to break the fat and glut within them, and cauſe it to come away.

Your cocks being ſparred ſufficiently, and that you ſee them pant and grow weary, take them up and untie their hots; then being provided with deep ſtraw baſkets made for that purpoſe, with ſweet ſoft ſtraw to the middle, put into each baſket a cock, covering him over with the like ſtraw to the top; then put on the lid cloſe, ſo let him ſweat and ſtove till the evening; but before you put him into the baſket, give him a pretty big lump of ſweet butter, with white ſugar candy, and roſemary finely chopped,

ped, and this ſcouring will bring away his greaſe, and breed breath and ſtrength.

In the evening, about four or five of the clock, take them out of the ſtoving baſket, and licking their heads and eyes all over, put them into the pens, then take a good handful of bread cut ſmall, put it to each in their troughs, and piſs therein, ſo that the cock may take the bread out of the warm urine, and this will ſcour and cleanſe both the head and the body extremely.

The bread that you muſt now and afterwards give them, muſt not be fine white bread, but a ſort made for that purpoſe, after this manner.

Take half a peck of wheat meal, and the like quantity of fine oatmeal; mix theſe together, and knead them in a ſtiff paſte, with ale, the whites of twelve eggs, and half a pound of butter.

This paſte being well wrought, make it into broad thin cakes, and being three or four days old, and the bliſter rings cut away, cut it into little ſquare bits and give it to the cocks.

Having fed your cocks thus, after their ſparring, the next day let them reſt, only give them their ordinary feeding of bread and water; then the next day (which is the ſparring) take them into a fair, even green cloſe, there ſet down one of them, and having a dunghill cock in your arms, ſhow it him, running from him, enticing him to follow you; and ſo chaſe him up and down for half an hour, ſuffering him now and then to have a ſtroke at him; and when you ſee him well heated and panteth, take him up, and carry him to his pen, and there give him his ſcouring. Take freſh butter, half a pound; beat it in a mortar, with the herbs of grace, hyſop, and roſemary, until the herbs are incorporated therein, and that the butter is brought to a green ſalve; and of this give the cock a role or two, as big as he can well ſwallow, then ſtove him in the baſket, as aforeſaid, until the evening: then take him out, put him in his pen, and feed him as above directed.

The next day let him reſt and feed, and the day following again ſpar him; and this method obſerve every other

day for the firſt fortnight, to ſpar or chaſe him, as being the moſt natural and kindlieſt heats; but forget not to give him a ſcouring after every heat, as aforeſaid, for the breaking and cleanſing him from greaſe, glut and filth, which lying in his body cauſeth purſineſs and faintneſs, ſo that he cannot ſtand out the latter end of a battle.

Thus having fed your cocks the firſt fortnight, obſerve the ſame rules the next fortnight; but, for a week do not ſpar him, or give him heats above twice a week, ſo that three or four times in a fortnight will be ſufficient: and each time ſtove and ſcour him according to his heats, long heats requiring longer ſtoving, as alſo greater ſcouring.

But if you find him in good breath, and that he requires but ſlight heats, then ſtove him the leſs, and give him the leſs ſcouring.

For the third fortnight, which compleats the ſix weeks, feed him as aforeſaid, but ſpar him not at all, for fear of making his head tender and ſore, neither give him any violent exerciſe, but only two or three times in the fortnight, let him moderately be chaſed up and down, to maintain his wind, and now and then cuff a cock; which you muſt hold in your hands; which done, give him his ſcouring, well rolled up in powder of brown ſugar candy, for the cock being now come to his perfect health, and clear from filth in his body, the ſugar prevents that ſickneſs which the ſcouring would then cauſe, and alſo ſtrengthens nature againſt the medicine.

Matching of fighting cocks.

Your ſix weeks feeding being finiſhed, and finding your cock in luſt and breath, he is fit to fight, always obſerving, that he hath at leaſt three days reſt before fighting, and be well emptied of meat before you bring him into the pit.

Being brought into the pit, your chief care muſt be in the matching him, in which conſiſts the greateſt glory of the cock-maſter, therefore in your matching there are but two things to be conſidered, *viz.* the ſtrength of cocks, and the length of cocks.

Now

Now for the knowledge of theſe, there are two rules: as for his ſtrength, it is known by the thickneſs of his body, that cock being held ſtrongeſt which is largeſt in the girth, which may be eaſily known by the meaſuring him with your fingers: as for his length, it is eaſily know by griping him about the middle, cauſing him to ſtretch forth his legs; but if you are doubtful of loſing in one, yet are ſure to gain in the other, you may venture to match.

Your cock being matched thus, prepare him to the battle: firſt, with a fine pair of cock ſhears, cut off his mane cloſe to the neck, from his head to the ſetting on of his ſhoulders; then clip off all the feathers from his tail cloſe to his rump, which the more ſcarlet it appears, the better ſtate of body he is in: then take his wings, extending them forth by the firſt feather, clip the reſt ſlopewiſe, with ſharp points, that in his riſing he may endanger the eyes of his adverſary; then, with a ſharp knife, ſcrape ſmooth and ſharpen his beak, and alſo ſmooth and ſharpen his ſpurs; and laſtly ſee that there be no feathers about the crown of his head for his adverſary to take hold of; then with your ſpittle, moiſten his head all over, and ſo turn him into the pit to try his fortune.

The battle being ended, your firſt buſineſs muſt be to ſearch his wounds, and ſuch as you find, ſuck out the blood with your mouth; then waſh them with warm urine to keep them from rankling; and preſently give him a bit or two of your beſt ſcouring, and ſo ſtove him up as hot as you can for that night; and in the morning take him forth, and if you ſee his head much ſwelled, ſuck it with your mouth, as aforeſaid, and bathe it with warm urine.

Then having the powder of the herb Robert, well dried, and finely ſifted, pounce all the ſore places therewith, and give him a good handful of bread to eat, out of warm urine, and then put him into the ſtove again, as before directed, being very careful that no air come to him till the ſwelling is gone; but twice a day ſuck and dreſs him, feed him as aforeſaid.

But if your cock has received any hurt in his eye, then take a leaf or two of right ground-ivy, that is, ſuch as

grows in little tufts in the bottom of hedges; chew it in your mouth very well, ſucking out the juice, which ſquirting into his eye two or three times, will ſoon cure it, provided the ſight is not pierced; and it will alſo preſerve the eye from films, flaws, warts, &c.

If your cock hath veined himſelf, either by narrow ſtriking, or other croſs blow, find out the wound, and preſently bind into it the ſoft down of a hare, and it will both ſtaunch it, and cure it.

After your wounded cocks are put forth to their walks, as being fit to go abroad, and when you come to viſit them in about a month or two after, if you find any hard ſwelled bunches about their heads, blackiſh at one end, it is a ſign of unſound cores; and then with a ſharp penknife open them, and cruſh out the ſaid cores; then ſuck out all the corruption, and fill the whole with freſh butter, which will perfect the cure.

COLTS.

COLT, in general, ſignifies the male and female of the horſe kind; the firſt likewiſe for diſtinction ſake, being called a horſe colt, and the other a filly.

After the colts have been foaled, you may ſuffer them to run with the mare till about Michaelmas, ſooner or later, according as the cold weather comes in; then they muſt be veined, after which let them be kept in a convenient houſe, with a low rack and manger for their hay and oats, which muſt be ſweet and good; with a little wheaten bran mixed with the oats, to cauſe them to drink and to keep their bodies open.

Further, that colts thus fed with grain do not grow thickiſh upon their legs, but grow broader, and better knit than if they had eaten nothing but hay and bran, and will endure fatigue the better.

But above all, they muſt be kept from wet and cold, which are the hurtfulleſt things imaginable to them, nothing being more tender than they are.

For

For proof of this take a Spaniſh ſtallion, and let him cover two mares, which for age, beauty, and comelineſs, may admit of no difference between them; and if they be both horſe colts, or both fillies, which is one and the ſame thing, let one run abroad, and the other be houſed every winter, kept warm, and ordinarily attended, as aforeſaid; and that colt that has been kept abroad ſhall have large fleſhy ſhoulders, flabby and gouty legs, weak paſterns and ill hoofs; and ſhall be a dull heavy jade, in compariſon to the other which is houſed, and orderly kept as before; and which will have a fine forehead, be well ſhaped, have good legs and hoofs, and be of a good ſtrength and ſpirit: by which you may know, that to have the fineſt ſtallion, and the beautifulleſt mare is nothing, if they are ſpoiled in breeding up.

It is worth obſervation, that ſome foals, under ſix months old, though their dams yield abundance of milk, yet decay daily, and have a cough, proceeding from certain pellicles, or ſkins that breed in their ſtomachs, which obſtruct their breathing, and at laſt deſtroy them entirely.

To remedy this malady, take the bag wherein the colt was foaled, dry it, and give them as much of it in milk as you can take up with three fingers: but if you have not preſerved the bag, procure the lungs of a young fox, and uſe it inſtead of the aforeſaid powder.

It will be proper to let the colts play an hour or two, in ſome court-yard, or the like place, when it is fair weather, provided you put them up again carefully, and ſee that they take no harm.

When the winter is ſpent, turn them into ſome dry ground, where the graſs is ſhort and ſweet, and where there is good water that they may drink at pleaſure: for it is not neceſſary that a colt ſhould fill his belly immediately, like a horſe that labours hard.

The next winter you may take them into the houſe, and uſe them juſt as your other horſes; but let not your horſes, colts and fillies be kept together after the firſt year.

This method may be obſerved every ſummer and winter, till you break them, which you may do after they

are three years old; and it will be a very eaſy thing, if you obſerve the aforeſaid method of houſing them, for ordering them the ſecond year as you do other horſes, that they will be ſo tame and gentle, that you need not fear their plunging, leaping, kicking, or the like coltiſh tricks; for they will take the ſaddle quietly.

Take notice, that as yearlings muſt be kept abroad together, ſo thoſe of two years old together; the like for thoſe of three yearlings, which ordered is moſt agreeable to them.

In order to make him endure the ſaddle the better, the way to make it familiar to him will be, by clapping the ſaddle with your hand as it ſtands upon his back, by ſtriking it, and ſwaying upon it, dangling the ſtirrups by his ſides, rubbing them againſt his ſides, and making much of him, and bring him to be familiar with all things about him; as ſtraining the crupper, faſtening and looſening the girths, and taking up and letting out the ſtirrups.

Then as to the mouthing of him, when he will trot with the ſaddle obediently, waſh a trench of a full mouth, and put the ſame into his mouth, throwing the reins over the fore part of the ſaddle, ſo that he may have a full feeling of it; then put on a martingal, buckled at ſuch a length that he may but juſt feel it when he jirks up his head; then take a broad piece of leather and put it about his neck, and make the ends of it faſt by platting of it, or ſome other way, at the withers, and the middle part before his weaſand, about two handfuls below the thropple, betwixt the leather and his neck: let the martingal paſs ſo, that when at any time he offers to duck, or throw down his head, the caveſſon being placed upon the tender griſtle of his noſe, may correct and puniſh him; which will make him bring his head to, and form him to an abſolute rein: then trot him abroad, and if you find the reins or martingal grow ſlack, ſtraiten them, for when there is no feeling, there is no virtue.

Of backing colts.

Backing a colt, after he has been exerciſed ſome time morning and evening, and you find him obedient, as directed under the head of colt; then take him to ſome ploughed grounds, the lighter the better, and when you have made him trot a good pace about in your hand, and thereby taking him from all his wantonneſs; ſee whether your tackling be firm and good, and every thing in its true and proper place; when having one ſtay to his head, and governing the chafing rein, you may take his back, yet not ſuddenly but by degrees, with divers heavings, and half riſings, which if he endure patiently, then ſettle yourſelf; but if he ſhrink and diſlike, then forbear to mount, and chaſe him about again, and then offer to mount, and do this till he be willing to receive you.

After you are ſettled, receive your ſtirrups, and cheriſh him, put your toes forward, let him that ſtays his head lead him forward half a dozen paces, then cheriſh him again, ſhake and move yourſelf on the ſaddle, then let the ſtayer of his head, remove his hand a little from the caveſſon; as you thruſt your toes forward, let him move him forward with his rein, till you have made him apprehend your own motion of the body, and foot, which muſt go equally together, and with ſpirit alſo that he will go forward without the other's aſſiſtance, and ſtay upon the reſtrain of your own hands; then cheriſh him, and give him graſs and bread to eat, alight from his back, mount and unmount twice or thrice together, ever mixing them with cheriſhings; thus exerciſe him, till he be made perfect in going forward and ſtanding ſtill at pleaſure: this being done, the long rein may be laid aſide, and the band about the neck, and only uſe the trenches and caveſſon with the martingal, and let the groom lead the way before on another horſe, going only ſtrait forwards, and make him ſtand ſtill when you pleaſe, which will ſoon be effected by trotting after another horſe, ſometimes equally with him, ſometimes before, ſo that he fix upon no certainty but your

own

own pleaſure, and be ſure to have regard to the well carriage of his neck and head, and as the martingal ſlackens, ſo ſtraiten it from time to time.

HORSES.

THE horſe ſhould have a broad forehead, a great eye, a lean head; thin, ſlender, lean, wide jaws; a long, high, rearing neck; rearing withers; a broad deep cheſt and body, upright paſterns and narrow hoofs.

There are very many things relating to a horſe, and very neceſſary to be known, which will be found under their proper articles; only there are a few which are not ſo conveniently reducible under ſuchs heads, which muſt have room here.

To begin with turning a horſe to graſs: you ought eight or nine days before you do it, to take blood of him; next day after, give him the drink called diapente, and in a day or two after his drink, abate of his cloaths by degrees, before you turn him out, leſt by doing them on a ſudden he ſhould take cold; and curry him not at all after his cloaths are taken off, but let him ſtand in his duſt, for that will keep him warm; neither is it proper to put him out till the middle of May, at ſooneſt, for till that time graſs will not have bite enough; and let the day be warm, ſunſhine, and about ten o'clock, for horſes pampered in ſtables and kept cloſe, will be very ſubject to take cold.

To take him up from graſs, he muſt be very dry, elſe he will be ſubject to be ſcabby; and that not later than Bartholomew-tide, when the ſeaſon begins to let cold dews fall, that cauſes much harm to your horſe; and then alſo the heart of the graſs begins to fail, inſomuch, that the graſs which he then feeds upon breeds no good nouriſhment, but groſs, phlegmatic, and cold humours, which putrify and corrupt the blood; and take him up very quickly, for fear of melting his greaſe, his fat gotten at graſs being very tender: then a day or two after he is in the ſtable, let him

him be ſhod, let blood, and drenched, which will prevent the ſtaggers, yellows, and the like diſtempers, occaſioned by the gall and ſpleen, which the heart and ſtrength of the graſs through the rankneſs of the blood, engenders in the body.

But the curious, after they have taken the horſe into the ſtable, before they either bleed or drench him, in a hot ſunſhining day take him out into a convenient place, and there trim him; and then taking ordinary waſhing ſoap, anoint his head and every part of him with it all over, having care that none gets into his eyes and ears, then they waſh him very well all over with warm water, and wipe him with a warm linen cloth, and afterwards rub him dry with woollen cloths; then ſoap him all over again, eſpecially his main and tail, and waſh him very clean with back lee, with a wiſp of woollen cloth, and when they have ſufficiently cleanſed him, dry him as before, and lead him into the ſtable; let him be cleanſed with a clean, thin, ſoft cloth.

There are two or three things more to be added that are of ſome ſignificancy in reference to this noble creature, and the firſt is, to make a horſe follow his maſter, and to find him out and challenge him amongſt ever ſo many people.

Take a pound of oatmeal, to which put a quarter of a pound of honey, and half a pound of liquorice, make a little cake thereof, and put it into your boſom next to your naked ſkin, and then run and labour yourſelf till you ſweat, and ſo rub all your ſweat upon your cake; then keep the horſe faſting a day and a night, and give it him to eat, which done, turn him looſe, and he ſhall not only follow you, but alſo hunt and ſeek you out, when he has loſt you, and when he comes to you, ſpit in his mouth, anoint his tongue with your ſpittle, and thus doing, he will never forſake you.

Another thing, is to ſhew how to make a horſe look young: take a crooked iron, no bigger than a wheat corn, and having made it red hot, burn a little black hole in the tops of the two outermoſt teeth of each ſide the nether chap before next to the tuſhes where the mark is worn out, then

then pick it with an awl blade, and make the ſhell fine and thin; then with a ſharp ſcraping-iron make all his teeth white and clean; this done, take a fine lancet, and about the hollows of the horſe's eyes which are ſhrunk down, make a little hole only through the ſkin, and put in the quill of a raven or crow, and blow the ſkin full of wind; then take the quill out, lay your finger on the hole a little while, and the wind will ſtay in, and he will look as youthful as if he were but five years old.

Horſe feeders, or Grooms.

There are many obſervations to be made by one engaged in this office, in order to perform it well, eſpecially when he hath the care of running horſes, but we ſhall only mention a few.

1. As to meat or drink, if there be any ſuch, or other nouriſhment that he knows good for a horſe, which yet the beſt refuſes, you muſt not thruſt it violently upon him, but by gentle enticements win him thereto, tempting him when he is moſt hungry or moſt dry; if he get but a bit at a time, he will ſoon encreaſe to a greater quantity.

Ever let him have leſs than he deſires; and that he may be brought the ſooner to it, mix the meat he loves beſt with that he loves worſt, till both be alike familiar, ſo ſhall he be a ſtranger to nothing that is good and wholeſome.

2. If he finds his horſe ſubject to ſtiffneſs and lameneſs, to the ſurbate or to tenderneſs of his feet, then he ſhould give him his heat upon ſmooth carpet earth, or forbear ſtrong grounds, hard highways, croſs ruts and furrows, till extremity compel him.

3. For the condition of a horſe's body, he muſt account that the ſtrongeſt ſtate which is the higheſt and leaſt of fleſh, ſo it be good, hard, without inward foul-fullneſs, to be the beſt and moſt proper for the performing of matches: and herein you muſt conſider, firſt, the ſhape of a horſe's body, there being ſome that are round, plump and cloſe knit together, which will appear fat and well ſhaped, when they are lean and in poverty: while others that are raw-boned, ſlender,

ſlender, and looſe knit, will appear lean and deformed, when they are fat, foul, and full of groſs humours.

So likewiſe for their inclinations: for ſome horſes at the firſt, feed outwardly and carry a thick rib, when they are inwardly as thin as may be; whereas others appear lean to the eye, when they are only greaſe.

In which caſe the feeder has two helps to advantage his knowledge, the outward and the inward one.

4. The firſt is, the outward handling and feeling the horſe's body all over his ribs, but particularly upon his ſhort and hindermoſt ribs, and if his fleſh generally handle ſoft and looſe, and the fingers ſink therein as in down, he is foul without all queſtion; but if he be hard and firm, and only ſoft upon the hindermoſt rib, he has greaſe and foul matter within him, which muſt be voided whatever comes of it. And for the inward help, that is only ſharp exerciſe and ſtrong ſcouring, the firſt to diſſolve, and the latter to bring it away.

5. It is the feeder's buſineſs to obſerve the horſe's ſtones, for if they hang downwards, or low from his body he is out of luſt and heat, and is either ſick of greaſe or other foul humours; but in caſe they lie cloſe truſſed up, and hid in ſmall room, then he is healthful, and in good plight.

6. As to the limbs, the feeder or groom muſt always before he runs any match or ſore heat, bathe his legs, from the knees and gambrels downwards, either with clarified dogs greaſe, (which is the beſt) or trotter oil, that is next to it, or elſe the beſt hog's greaſe, which is ſufficient, and work it in well with his hands, not with fire, for what he gets not in the firſt night, will be got in the next morning, and what is not got in then, will be got in when he comes to uncloath at the end of the courſe; ſo that the ointment need be uſed but once, but the rubbing as often as there is opportunity.

7. The feeder may in any of the latter fortnight's of a running horſe's feeding, if he finds him clear, and his greaſe conſumed about ſix in the evening, give him water in a reaſonable quantity made luke-warm, keeping him faſting for an hour after: alſo, if through the unſeaſonable-

neſs of the weather you cannot water him abroad, then at your own watering hours you are to do it in the houſe, with warm water, and an handful of wheat-meal, bran, or oatmeal, finely powdered, (which laſt is the beſt) put into the water; which is very wholeſome.

8. The rider is farther to note, that if the ground whereon the horſe is to run his match, be dangerous, and apt for bad accidents, as ſtrains, over-reaches, ſinew-bruiſes, and the like, that then he is not bound to give him his heats thereon, but having made him acquainted with the nature thereof, let him to take part of the courſe, as a mile, two or three, according to the goodneſs of the ground, and ſo run him forth again, which are called turning-heats, provided always he ends his heat at the weighing-poſt, and make not his courſe leſs, but more in quantity than that he muſt run.

If for ſome ſpecial cauſes he likes no part of the courſe, he may often, but not ever, give his heat upon any other ground about any ſpacious and large field, where the horſe may lay down his body and run at pleaſure.

9. He muſt have ſpecial regard to all his airings, breathings, and other exerciſes whatever; to the ſweating of the horſe, and the occaſion, as if he ſweat on little or no occaſion, as walking a foot place, ſtanding ſtill in the ſtable, and the like; this ſhews that the horſe is faint, foul fed, and wants exerciſe: but if upon good occaſions, as ſtrong heats, great labours and the like, he ſweat, and it is a white froth like ſoap ſuds, he is inwardly foul, and alſo wants exerciſe: again, if the ſweat be black, and as it were only water thrown upon him, without any frothineſs, then he is cleanſed, and in good luſt, and good caſe, and may be rid without any danger.

10. And laſtly, he ſhould obſerve his hair in general, but eſpecially on his neck, and thoſe parts that are uncovered, for if they lie ſleek, ſmooth, and cloſe, holding the beauty of their natural colour, the horſe is in good caſe, but if rough and ſtaring, or diſcoloured, he muſt be inwardly cold at heart, and wants both cloaths and warm keeping.

Of

Of horſe ſhoes.

Of theſe there are ſeveral ſorts: 1. That called the planch-ſhoe, or pancelet, which makes a good foot, and a bad leg, by reaſon it cauſes the foot to grow beyond the meaſure of the leg; though for a weak heel it is exceeding good, and will laſt longer than any ſhoe, being borrowed from the moil, that has weak heels and fruſhes, to keep the feet from ſtones and gravel.

2. Shoes with calkins, which though they be intended to ſecure the horſe from ſliding, yet they do him more harm than good, whereby many times he wrenches his foot, or ſtrains ſome ſinews, more eſpecially upon ſtony ways, where the ſtones will not ſuffer his calkins to enter, the foot ſlips with more violence; though ſome do not think a horſe well ſhod unleſs all his ſhoes be made with calkins, either ſingle or double; however, the double ones are leſs hurtful, for he will tread evener with them than with ſingle calkins, but they muſt not be over long, or ſharp pointed, but rather ſhort and flat.

3. There are ſhoes for rings, which were firſt invented to make a horſe lift his feet high, though an unhandſome ſight: this defect is incident to moſt horſes that have not ſound hoofs, for tender feet fear to touch the ground that is hard: but what is intended for a remedy, proves a prejudice to the horſe, by adding high calkins, or elſe theſe rings to his ſhoes, for by that means he is made to have weaker heels than before.

4. Shoes with ſwelling welts or borders round about them, are uſed in Germany, &c. which being higher than the heads of the nails, ſave them from wearing; and theſe are the beſt laſting ſhoes, if made of well tempered ſtuff, for they wear equally in all parts, and the horſe treads equally upon them.

5. Others that uſe to travel mountains where ſmiths are not ſo eaſily to be met with, carry ſhoes about them with vices, whereby they faſten them to the horſe's hoof without the help of the hammer or nail, notwithſtanding it is more for ſhew than any good ſervice; for though this ſort of

ſhoe may ſave his feet from ſtones, yet it ſo pinches his hoof, that he goes with pain, and perhaps injures it more than the ſtones do: therefore upon ſuch emergent occaſions, it is better to make uſe of a joint ſhoe, which is made of two pieces, with a flat rivet nail joining them together in the toe, ſo that you may make it both wide and narrow to ſerve any foot.

6. The pattern ſhoe, is neceſſary for a horſe that is burnt in the hip, ſtifle, or ſhoulder, which will cauſe him to bear upon that leg the grief is on, and conſequently uſe it the better.

7. A ſhoe proper for flat feet.

8. The panton, or pantacle ſhoe, which opens the heels, and helps hoof binding.

Theſe are of admirable uſe, in regard that they never ſhift upon the feet, and continue firm in one place.

9. And laſtly, the half panton ſhoe.

Of Horſe Racing.

As to the method of ordering running-horſes or what is called keeping, it will be found under the article running-horſes, and therefore we will only here ſuppoſe a horſe ſet to run for a plate, and that the hour of ſtarting is at hand, when the drum beats or the trumpets ſound, according to the cuſtom of the place where you run, to give notice for ſtripping and weighing; be ſure in the firſt place, to keep out the wind, and to ſtrengthen you: if you are light, that you muſt carry weight, let it be equally quilted in your waiſtcoat; but it is better if you are juſt weight, for then you have no more to do than juſt to dreſs you, according to your own fancy; your cloaths ſhould be made of coloured ſilk, or of white holland, as being very advantageous to the ſpectators; your waiſtcoat and drawers muſt be made cloſe to your body, and on your head a little cap tied on; let your boots be gartered up faſt, and your ſpurs muſt be of good metal; then mount and come to the ſtarting place, where going off briſkly or gently, as occaſion requires, make your horſe perform the courſe or heat, according to your intended deſign; particularly, if you would win the

ſame,

ſame, and that your horſe excels in goodneſs more than ſpeed, ſtart him roundly, and run him to the very top of what he can do, during the whole courſe or heat; and by that means, if the horſe you run againſt be not ſo good at the bottom, though he has more ſpeed, you will beat him, becauſe he will run off it a great way before he comes to the end. But on the contrary, if your horſe's talent be ſpeed, all that you can do is to wait upon the other horſe, and keep behind till you come almoſt to the ſtand, and then endeavour to give a looſe by him. Sometimes when you are to run more heats than one, it will be your policy to loſe a heat; and in that caſe you muſt, for the eaſing and ſafeguard of your horſe, lie behind as much as you can, provided you bring him in within diſtance.

The poſture to be obſerved is, that you place yourſelf upon your twiſt, with your knees firm, and your ſtirrups juſt at ſuch a length, that your feet, when they are thruſt home in them, you can raiſe yourſelf a little in the ſaddle, for your legs, without that allowance, will not be firm when you come to run; the counter-poiſe of your body muſt be forward, to facilitate your horſe's running, and your elbows muſt be cloſe to your body; be ſure above all things, that you do not incommode your horſe by ſwaggering this or that way, as ſome do, for ſince weight is a great matter in running, and that a troubleſome rider is as bad as ſo much more weight, there is no need to ſay how neceſſary it is to take great care of your ſeat and hand; you muſt therefore beware of holding yourſelf by the bridle, or of jobbing your horſe's mouth upon any occaſion; you muſt take your right rein in the ſame hand, holding up horſe, &c. as you find it neceſſary, and every now and then remove the bridle in his mouth. But theſe things are beſt learned by experience and practice.

A plate being run for by heats, every man that rides muſt be juſt weight at ſtarting, in great ſcales for that purpoſe, and at the end of the ſame heat, for if you want of your weight at coming in, you ſhall loſe your heat, though you are the firſt horſe; you have half an hour between the firſt and ſecond, to rub your horſes, and at the warning

of the drum and trumpet again, you mount, &c. as before, and ſo till all is done, which is three, and ſometimes three heats and a courſe.

If you do not breed racers yourſelf, be ſure you buy no horſe that has not extraordinary good blood in his veins, for the charge of keeping is great, and a good one eats no more than a bad, and requires no more attendance; ſome to ſave twenty or thirty guineas in the price of a young horſe have loſt hundreds by him afterwards.

A horſe that you have tried once or twice at a twelve ſtone plate, you may be ſure will make an extraordinary good hunter: and you are to obſerve, that the poſture, manner of riding, &c. is the ſame in a match as in a plate race, only that there being but a ſingle courſe to be run, you muſt puſh for all at that one time; whereas when there are ſeveral heats, there is more ſaving, and variety of play.

Of hunting Horſes.

A horſe deſigned for this manly exerciſe, his ſhape ſhould be generally ſtrong and well knit together, making equal proportions; for you are to obſerve, that which has an unequal ſhape ſhews weakneſs, ſo equal ones ſhew ſtrength and durance; and what we call unequal, are a great head and a little neck; a big body and a thick buttock; a large limb to a little foot, &c. A hunting horſe, while he is at reſt, let him have all the quietneſs that may be; let him have much meat, much litter, much dreſſings, and water even by him; let him ſleep as long as he pleaſes; keep him to dung rather ſoft than hard, and look that it be well coloured, and bright, for darkneſs ſhews greaſe, redneſs, and inward heat; and after his uſual ſcourings, let him have exerciſes, and maſhes of ſweet malt, or let bread, or clean beans, or beans and wheat, mixed together, be his beſt food, and beans and oats the moſt extraordinary.

You may furniſh yourſelf with a horſe for hunting at ſome of our fairs, which ſhould have as near as can be, the following ſhapes.

A head

A head lean, large, and long; a chaul thin and open ears ſmall, and picked, or, if they be ſomewhat long, provided they ſtand upright, like thoſe of a fox, it is uſually a ſign of mettle and toughneſs.

His forehead long and broad, not flat, and as it is uſually termed hare-faced, riſing in the midſt, like that of a hare, the feather being placed above the top of his eye; the contrary being thought by ſome to be a token of blindneſs.

His eyes full, large, and bright: his noſtrils wide and red within, for an open noſtril is a ſign of a good wind.

His mouth large, deep in the wikes, and hairy; his thropple, weaſand or wind-pipe big, looſe and ſtrait, when he is reined in with the bridle; for if when he bridles, it bends like a bow, (which is called cock-throppled) it very much hinders the free paſſage of his wind.

His head muſt be ſet on to his neck, that a ſpace may be felt between his neck and his chaul; for to be bull-necked is uncomely to ſight, and alſo prejudicial to the horſe's wind.

His creſt ſhould be firm, thin, and well-riſen, his neck long and ſtrait, yet not looſe and pliant, which the northern-men term withy cragged.

His breaſt ſtrong and broad, his cheſt deep, his chine ſhort, his body large and cloſe ſhut up to the huckle-bone.

His ribs round like a barrel, his belly being hid within them.

His fillets large, his buttocks rather oval than broad, being well let down to the gaſcoins, his cambrels upright, and not bending, which ſome call ſuckle-hoghed; though ſome look upon this to be a ſign of toughneſs and ſpeed.

His legs clean, flat, and ſtrait; his joints ſhort, well knit, and upright, eſpecially betwixt the paſterns and the hoofs, having but little hair on his fetlocks; his hoofs black, ſtrong, and hollow, and rather long and narrow, than big and flat.

Laſtly, his mane and tail ſhould be long and thin, rather than thick, which is counted by ſome a mark of dulneſs.

As to marks or colours, though they do not abſolutely give teſtimony unto us of a horſe's goodneſs, yet they, as well as his ſhape, do intimate to us, in ſome part, his diſpoſition and qualities: the hair itſelf does oftentimes receive the variation of its colour, from the different temperature of the ſubject out of which it is produced.

And ſome do not ſcruple to affirm, that wherever you meet with a horſe that has no white about him, eſpecially in his forehead, though he be otherwiſe of the beſt reputed colours, as bay, black, ſorrel, he is of a dogged and ſullen diſpoſition, eſpecially if he have a ſmall pink eye, and a narrow face, with a noſe bending like a hawk's bill.

The Age, &c. of a Hunter.

Having procured a horſe ſuitable to the former deſcriptions, or your own ſatisfaction at leaſt, and which is ſuppoſed to be already grounded in the fundamentals of his art, being taught ſuch obedience, as that he will readily anſwer to the horſemen's helps and corrections both of the bridle and hand, the voice, the calf of the leg, and the ſpurs, that he knows how to make his way forward, and hath gained a true temper of mouth, and a right placing of his head, and that he hath learned to ſtop, and turn readily; for unleſs he has been perfectly taught theſe things, he can never proceed effectually.

The horſe being thus prepared, ſhould be five years old, and well wayed before you begin to hunt him: for although it is cuſtomary with ſome to hunt at four years old, yet at that age his joints not being well knit, nor he attained to his beſt ſtrength and courage, he is unable to perform any work of ſpeed and roughneſs, and will be in great danger of ſtrains, and other maladies, and alſo a daunting of his ſpirits, and abating his natural courage.

Your horſe being full five, you may, if you pleaſe, put him to graſs from the middle of May till Bartholomew-tide, for then the ſeaſon will be ſo hot, it will not be convenient to work him.

Bartholomew-tide being now come, and the pride and ſtrength of the graſs nipped by the ſevere froſts and cold dews,

dews, ſo that the nouriſhmont of it turns to raw crudities, and the coldneſs in the night abates as much of his fleſh and luſt as he gets in a day: take him from graſs while his coat lies ſmooth and ſleek.

Having brought him home, let your groom ſet him up that night in ſome ſecure and ſpacious houſe, where he may evacuate his body, and the next day ſtable him.

The firſt fortnight's Diet for a Hunting Horſe; or the ordering of a Hunter for the firſt fortnight.

Your horſe being ſuppoſed to have evacuated all his graſs, and his ſhoes ſo well ſettled to his feet, that he may be fit to be ridden abroad without danger: I ſhall now, in a more particular manner, direct an unexperienced groom how he ought to proceed to order his horſe according to art.

Firſt, he ought to viſit his horſe early in the morning, to wit, by five o'clock in ſummer, and ſix in winter; and having put up his litter under his ſtall, and made clean his ſtables, to feel his ribs, his chaul, and his flank, they being the principal ſigns by which he muſt learn to judge of the good or ill ſtate of a horſe's body.

He ought to lay his hands on his ſhort ribs near the flank, and if his fat feels to be exceeding ſoft and tender, and to yield as it were under his hand, then he may be confident it is unſound, and that the leaſt violent labour or travel will diſſolve it; which being diſſolved before it be hardened by good diet, if it be not then removed by ſcouring, the fat or greeſe belonging to the outward parts of the body will fall down into his heels, and ſo cauſe goutineſs and ſwelling.

After, by feeling on his ribs, he has found his fat ſoft and unſound, then let him feel his chaul; and if he finds any fleſhy ſubſtance, or great round kernels or knots, he may be aſſured that as his outward fat has been unſound, ſo inwardly he is full of glut, and purſive, by means of groſs humours cleaving to the hollow places of his lungs, &c.

This

This fat is to be enſeamed and hardened by moderate exerciſe, warm cloathing, and gentle phyſic, to cleanſe away his inward glut.

The ſame obſervations muſt be made from the flank, which will always be found to correſpond with his ribs and chaul, for till it is drawn, it will feel thick to your gripe, but when he is enſeamed you will perceive nothing but two thin ſkins; and by theſe three obſervations of the rib, flank, and chaps, you may at any time paſs an indifferent judgment of the horſe's good or bad condition.

Having made theſe remarks on your horſe's ſtate and condition of body, then ſift a handful or two (but not more) of good old oats, and give them to him to preſerve his ſtomach from cold humours which might oppreſs it by drinking faſting, and likewiſe to make him drink the better.

When he hath eaten them, pull off his collar, and rub his head, face, ears, and nape of the neck, with a clean rubbing cloth made of hemp, for it is ſovereign for the head, and diſſolves all groſs and filthy humours.

Then take a maſſle, and waſh it in clean water, and put it on his head, drawing the rein through the headſtall to prevent his ſlipping it over his head, and ſo tie him up to the rack, and dreſs him thus:

Firſt, take a curry comb, ſuitable to your horſe's ſkin, in your right hand; that is, if the coat of your horſe be ſhort and ſmooth, then muſt the curry-comb be blunt; but if it be long and rough, then the teeth muſt be long and ſharp; ſtanding with your face oppoſite the horſe's, hold the left cheek of the head-ſtall in your left hand, and curry him with a good hand from the root of his ears, all along his neck to his ſhoulders; then go over all his body with a more moderate hand; then curry his buttocks down to the hinder cambrel with a hard hand again; then change your hand, and laying your right arm over his back, join your right ſide to his left, and ſo curry him gently from the top of his withers, to the lower part of his ſhoulder, every now and then fetching your

your ſtroke over the left ſide of his breaſt, and ſo curry him down to the knee, but no farther.

Then curry him well under his belly, near his fore bowels, and in a word, all over very well, his legs under the knees and cambrels only excepted; and as you dreſs his left ſide, ſo muſt you the right alſo.

In doing this, take notice where your horſe keeps a riggling up and down, biting the rack ſtaffs, and now and then offering to ſnap at you, or lifting up his leg to ſtrike at you, when you are currying him: if he do, it is an apparent ſign, that the roughneſs of the comb diſpleaſes him, and therefore the teeth of it is to be filed more blunt; but if you perceive he plays theſe or ſuch like tricks through wantonneſs, and the pleaſure he takes in the friction, then you ſhould every now and then correct him with your whip gently for his waggiſhneſs.

This currying is only to raiſe the duſt, therefore, after the horſe has been thus curried, take either an horſe-tail nailed to a handle, or a clean duſting cloth of cotton, and with it ſtrike off the looſe duſt that the curry comb has raiſed.

Then dreſs him all over with the French bruſh, both head, body, and legs, to the very fetlocks, obſerving always to cleanſe the bruſh from the filth it gathers from the bottom of the hair, by rubbing it on the curry-comb; then duſt the horſe again the ſecond time.

Then having wetted your hand in water, rub his body all over, and as near as you can, leave no looſe hairs behind, and with your hands, wet, pick, and cleanſe his eyes, ears and noſtrils, ſheath, cods, and tuel, and ſo rub him till he is as dry as at firſt.

Then take an hair patch, and rub his body all over, but eſpecially his fore-bowels, under his belly, his flank, and between his hinder thighs: and in the laſt place, wipe him over with a fine white linnen rubber.

When you have thus dreſſed him, take a large ſaddle cloth (made on purpoſe) that may reach down to the ſpurring-place, and lap it about his body: then clap on his ſaddle,

ſaddle, and throw a cloth over him, that he may not catch cold.

Then twiſt two ropes of ſtraw very hard together, and with them rub and chafe his legs from the knees and cambrels downwards to the ground, picking his fetlock joints, with your hands, from duſt, filth, and ſcabs: then take another hair patch kept on purpoſe for his legs, (for you muſt have two) and with it rub and dreſs his legs alſo.

And while you are dreſſing your horſe, let him not ſtand naked, ſo that his body be expoſed to the penetration of the air; but when he is ſtripped, do your buſineſs roundly, without any intermiſſion, till you have ſaddled him, and thrown his cloth over him.

When you have done this, pick his feet clean with an iron picker, comb down his mane and tail with a wet mane-comb, then ſpurt ſome beer in his mouth, and ſo draw him out of the ſtable.

Then mount him, rake or walk him either to ſome running river or freſh ſpring a mile or two diſtant from the ſtable, and there let him drink about half his draught at firſt, to prevent raw crudities ariſing in his ſtomach.

After he has drank, bring him calmly out of the water, and ride him gently for a while; for nothing is more unbecoming a horſeman than to put his horſe upon a ſwift gallop as ſoon as he comes out of the water, for theſe three reaſons.

1. He does not only hazard the breaking of his wind, but aſſuredly hazards the incording or burſting him.

2. It begets in him an ill habit of running away as ſoon as he has done drinking.

3. The foreſight he has of ſuch violent exerciſe, makes him often times refuſe to quench his thirſt, and therefore walk him a little way and then put him into a gentle gallop for five or ſix ſcore paces, and give him wind; and after he has been raked a pretty while, ſhew him the water again, and let him drink as much as he will, and then gallop him again, and repeat this till he will drink no more; but be ſure to obſerve always, that you gallop him not ſo much as to chafe or ſweat him.

Here

Here take notice, that in his galloping after water, (after the firſt weak's enſeaming) if ſometimes you give him a watering-courſe ſharply of twelve or twenty ſcore paces, according as you find your horſe, it will quench his ſpirit, and cauſe him to gallop more pleaſantly, and teach him to manage his limbs more nimbly, and ſtretch forth his body largely.

When your horſe has done drinking, then rake him to the top of an hill (if there be one near the watering-place) for there, in a morning, the air is pureſt; or elſe to ſome ſuch place, where he may gain the moſt advantage both by ſun and air, and there air him a foot-pace for an hour, or longer, as you in your judgment ſhall think fit, for the ſtate of his body, and then ride him home.

During the time of your horſe's airing, you may eaſily perceive ſeveral tokens of his ſatisfaction, and the pleaſure that he takes in his exerciſe.

For he will gape, yawn, and as it were ſhrug his body.

If he offers to ſtand ſtill to dung or ſtale, which his airing will provoke, be ſure give him leave; as alſo to ſtare about, neigh, or liſten to any noiſe.

Theſe airings are advantageous to the horſe on ſeveral accounts.

1. It purifies the blood (if the air be clear and pure;) it purges the body of many groſs and ſuffocating humours, and ſo hardens and enſeams the horſe's fat, that it is not near ſo liable to be diſſolved by ordinary exerciſe.

2. It teaches him how to let his wind rake, and equally keep time with the other actions and motions of his body.

3. It is of great advantage, both to hunters and galloppers, which are apt to loſe their ſtomachs through exceſs or want of exerciſe, for the ſharpneſs of the air will drive the horſe's natural heat from the outward parts to the inward, which heat by furthering concoction creates appetite, and provokes the ſtomach.

4. It creates luſt and courage in the horſe, provided he be not aired too early.

When

When you are returned from airing, and are diſmounted, lead the horſe on the ſtraw, which ſhould always lie before the ſtable door, and there whiſtling and ſtirring up the litter under his belly, you will provoke him to ſtale, which he will be brought to do with a little practice, and it will be advantageous to the health of the horſe, and a means of keeping the ſtable cleaner: then lead him into his ſtall, (having firſt been well littered:) then tie up his head to the empty rack, take off the ſaddle, rub his body and legs all over with the freſh butter, then with the hair patch, and laſt of all with the woollen cloth.

Then clothe him with a linnen cloth next to his body, and over that a canvas cloth, and both made fit for him, to cover his breaſt, and to come pretty low down to his legs.

Then put over the before-mentioned a body-cloth of ſix or eight ſtraps, which is better than a ſurcingle and pad ſtuft with whiſps, becauſe this keeps his belly in ſhape, and is not ſo ſubject to hurt him.

Now theſe cloths will be ſufficient for him at his firſt ſtabling, becauſe being inured to the cold, he will not be ſo apt to take cold, the weather being indifferently warm; but when ſharp weather comes on, and you find his hair riſe about thoſe parts that are unclothed, as neck, gaſcoins, &c. then add another cloth, which ought to be of woollen; and for any horſe bred under the climate, and kept only for ordinary hunting, this clothing will be ſufficient.

Having already given directions as to the clothing of the horſe, I ſhall only add this one general rule; that a rough coat is a token of want of cloaths, and a ſmooth coat of clothing ſufficient, therefore, if notwithſtanding what cloaths you have given him, his coat ſtill ſtares, you muſt add more cloaths till it lie.

But if when he has been in keeping ſome time, you perceive him apt to ſweat in the night, it is a ſign he is over fed, and wants exerciſe; but if he ſweat at his firſt coming from graſs, then there is reaſon to add rather than diminiſh his cloaths before directed for him at his houſing;

for it proceeds from the foul humours that oppreſs nature, and when they are evacuated by exerciſe, nature will ceaſe working, and he will continue in a temperate ſtate of body all the year after.

When you have clothed him up, pick his feet clean with an iron picker, and waſh his hoofs clean with a ſponge dipped in clean water, and dry them with ſtraw or a linen cloth, then leave him on his ſnaffle for an hour or more, which will aſſiſt his appetite.

Then viſit him again, duſt a handful of hay, and let the horſe teaze it out of your hand, till he hath eaten it; then pull off his bridle, and rub his head and neck clean with your hempen-cloth; pull his ears and ſtop his noſtrils, to cauſe him to ſnort, which will bring away the moiſt humours which oppreſs his brain, and then put on his collar, and give him a quartern of oats clean dreſſed in a ſieve, having firſt cleaned his locker or manger with a whiſp of ſtraw and a cloth.

While he is eating his corn, ſweep out your ſtable, and ſee that all things are neat about him; then turn up his cloaths, and rub his fillets, buttocks, and gaſcoins over with the hair-patch, and after that with a woollen cloth; then ſpread a clean flannel fillet cloth over his fillets, and buttocks, which will make his coat lie ſmooth, and turn down his houſing-cloths upon it; then anoint his hoofs round from the cornet to the toe with this ointment.

Take 4 ounces of Venice turpentine, 3 ounces of the beſt roſin, of bees-wax 2 ounces, 1 pound of dog's greaſe. and half a pint of train oil; melt all theſe ingredients together, except the turpentine; then take them off the fire, and put in the turpentine, ſtirring it till it be well incorporated; then pour it out into an earthen gallipot, and keep it for uſe, but do not cover it till it is cold.

After this, ſtop his feet with cow-dung. If by this time your horſe has eaten his oats with a good ſtomach, ſift him another quartern, and ſo feed him with little and little, while he eats with an appetite; but if you find he fumbles with his corn, give him no more for that time,

but always give him his full feeding, for that will keep his body in better ſtate and temper, and increaſe his ſtrength and vigour.

Whereas, on the contrary, to keep your horſe always ſharp-ſet, is the ready way to procure a ſurfeit, if at any time he can come at his fill of provender.

But though you ſhould perceive that he gathers fleſh too faſt upon ſuch home feeding, yet be ſure not to ſtint him for it, but only increaſe his labour, and that will aſſiſt both his ſtrength and wind.

Having done all the things before directed, duſt a pretty quantity of hay, and throw it down to him on his litter, after you have taken it up under him: and then ſhutting up the windows and ſtable door, leave him till one o'clock in the afternoon; then viſit him again, and rub over his head, neck, fillets, buttocks, and legs as before, with the hair patch and woollen cloth, and then leave him to the time of the evening watering, which ſhould be about four o'clock in the ſummer, and three in the winter; when having put back his foul litter, and ſwept away that and his dung, dreſs and ſaddle him, as before, mount him and take him to the water, and when he has drank, gallop him, and air him till you think it time to go home; where you are to order in all points, as to rubbing, feeding, ſtopping his feet, &c. as you did in the morning, and having fed him about ſix o'clock, do not fail to feed him again at nine, litter him well, and give him hay enough to ſerve him all night: and ſo leave him till next morning.

After the directions for this one day, ſo muſt you order him for a fortnight, and by that time his fleſh will be ſo hardened, and his wind ſo improved; his mouth will be ſo quickened, and his gallop brought to ſo good a ſtroke, that he will be fit to be put to moderate hunting.

Now during this fortnight's keeping, you are to make ſeveral obſervations, as to the nature and diſpoſition of your horſe, the temper of his body, the courſe of his digeſtion, &c. and to order him accordingly.

1. Whe-

1. Whether he be of a churliſh diſpoſition; if ſo, you muſt reclaim him by ſeverity.

If of a gentle, familiar, and loving temper, you muſt engage and win him by kindneſs.

2. You muſt obſerve, whether he be a foul feeder, or of a nice ſtomach; if he be quick at his meat, and retain a good ſtomach, then four times of full feeding in a night and a day are ſufficient; but if he be a ſlender feeder, and ſlow at his meat, then you muſt give him but little at a time, and often, as about every two hours, for freſh meat will draw on his appetite; and you muſt always leave a little meat in his locker, for him to eat at leiſure betwixt his feeding times; and if at any time you find any left, ſweep it away and give him freſh, and expoſe that to the ſun and air, which will reduce it again to its firſt ſweetneſs as before it was blown upon.

His ſtomach may alſo be ſharpened by change of meat, as by giving one meal of clean oats, and at another oats and ſplit beans, and when you have brought him to eat bread, you may give him another meal of bread; always obſerving to give him oftèneſt that which you find he likes beſt; or you may give him both corn and bread at the ſame time, provided you give him that laſt which he eats beſt, and which is of the beſt digeſtion.

It has been obſerved of ſome horſes, that they are of ſo hot a conſtitution, that they cannot eat without drinking at every bit; and thoſe horſes uſually carry no belly. You muſt let a pail of water ſtand continually before ſuch horſes, or at leaſt give them water at noon, beſides what they have abroad at their ordinary times.

In the next place, you are to obſerve the nature of his digeſtion, whether he retains his food long, which is a ſign of bad digeſtion; or whether he dungs frequently, which if he does, and his dung be looſe and bright, it is a ſign of a good habit of body: but if it be ſeldom and hard, it is a ſign of a dry conſtitution; in order to remedy which, give him once a day, a handful or two of oats, well waſhed in good ſtrong ale, and this will looſen his body

and keep him moiſt; and it will alſo be good for his wind.

The ſecond fortnight's diet for a HUNTING HORSE.

The horſe having been ordered for the firſt fortnight, according to the foregoing rules, will be in a pretty good ſtate of body, for the groſs humours in him will be dried up, and his fleſh will begin to be hardened, which you may perceive by feeling his chaul, his ſhort ribs and flank; for the kernels under his chaps will not feel ſo groſs as they did at firſt, nor will his fleſh on his ſhort ribs feel ſo ſoft and looſe, nor the thin part of his flank ſo thick as at his firſt houſing, ſo that you may now without hazard, venture to hunt him moderately.

The time being now come, that he may be hunted, he is to be ordered on his days of reſt, in all points, as to his dreſſing, hours of feeding, watering, &c. as in the firſt fortnight before directed; but only ſince his labour is new increaſed, you muſt endeavour to increaſe his ſtrength and courage likewiſe.

Take two pecks of clean old beans, and one peck of wheat, and let them be ground together and ſift the meal through a meal ſieve of an indifferent fineneſs, and knead it with warm water and a good ſtore of yeaſt: then let it lie an hour or more, to ſwell, which will make the bread the lighter, and have the eaſier and quicker digeſtion: and after it has been well kneaded, make it up in loaves of a peck a piece, which will prevent there being too much cruſt, and prevent it's drying too ſoon; let them be well baked, and ſtand a good while in the oven to ſoak: when they are drawn, turn the bottoms upwards and let them ſtand to dry.

When the bread is a day old, chip away the cruſt, and you may give the horſe ſome, giving him ſometimes bread, ſometimes oats, and ſometimes oats and ſplit beans, according as you find his ſtomach: and this feeding will bring him into as good condition as you need to deſire for ordinary hunting.

The

The firſt fortnight being expired, and the bread prepared, you ought then to pitch upon a day for his going abroad after the dogs, and the day before you hunt, he muſt always be ordered after this manner.

In the morning proceed in your uſual method as before, only obſerve that day to give him no beans, becauſe they are hard of digeſtion, but give him moſt of bread if you can draw him to eat it, becauſe it is more nouriſhing than oats; and after the evening, which ought to be ſomewhat earlier than at other times, give him only a little hay out of your hand, and no more till the next day that he returns from hunting; and to prevent his eating his litter, or any thing elſe but what you give him, inſtead of a muzzle put on a caveſſon, joined to a head-ſtall of a bridle lined with leather, for fear of hurting him, and tying it ſo tight as to hinder his eating; and this will prevent ſickneſs in your horſe, which ſome horſes are incident to when their muzzle is put on, notwithſtanding the invention of the lattice window ſo much uſed; but by taking this method, the horſe's noſtrils are at full liberty, and he will not grow ſick.

But as to corn, give him his meals, both after his watering, and at nine o'clock, and at that time be ſure to litter him well, that he may take his reſt the better that night, and then leave him till morning.

The next morning viſit him early, at about four o'clock, and put a quarter of a peck of clean dreſſed oats into his locker, pouring into it a quart of good ſtrong ale, mixing the oats and ale well together; then put back his dung and foul litter, and clean the ſtable: but if he will not eat waſhed oats, give him dry, but be ſure not to put any beans in them.

When he has done eating, bridle him, and tie him up to the ring and dreſs him: having dreſſed him, ſaddle him, and throw his cloth over him, and let him ſtand till the hounds are ready to go out.

Take care not to draw the ſaddle girths too ſtreight till you are ready to mount, leſt that ſhould cauſe him to grow ſick.

Tho' old horſes are generally ſo craſty, that when a groom goes to girt them up hard, they will extend their bodies ſo much by holding their wind (on purpoſe to gain eaſe after they are girt) that it will ſeem difficult to girt them, but when they let go their wind their bodies fall again.

When the hounds are unkennelled, (which ſhould not be before ſun-riſing) go into the field along with them, and rake your horſe up and down gently till a hare is ſtarted; always remembering to let him ſmell to the dung of other horſes, if there be any, which will provoke him to empty himſelf; and ſuffer him to ſtand ſtill till he does ſo; and if there be any dead frogs, ruſhes, or the like, ride him upon them, and whiſtle to him, to provoke him to ſtale and empty his bladder.

The hare being ſtarted, follow the hounds as the other hunters do: but remembering it to be the firſt time of his hunting, he is not ſo well acquainted with the different ſorts of grounds, as to know how to gallop ſmoothly and with eaſe on them, and for that reaſon you ought not yet to put him to above half his ſpeed, that he may learn to carry a ſtay'd body, and to manage his legs both upon fallows and green ſwarth.

Neither ſhould you gallop him often, or any long time together, for fear of diſcouraging him, and cauſing a diſlike of his exerciſe in him: and take care to croſs fields to the beſt advantage; you ſhould make into the hounds at every default, and ſtill keep your horſe, (as much as theſe directions will allow you) within the cry of the dogs, that he may be uſed to their cry; and by ſo doing, in a very ſhort time he will take ſuch delight and pleaſure in their muſic, that he will be eager to follow them.

And if it happens that the chace is led over any carpet ground, or ſandy highway, on which your horſe may lay out his body ſmoothly, there you may gallop him for a quarter or half a mile, to teach him to lay out his body, to gather up his legs, to lengthen and ſhorten his ſtroke, and according to the different earth he gallops on, as if on

green ſwarth, meadow, moor, heath, &c, then to ſtoop and run more on the ſhoulders; if amongſt mole-hills, or over high ridges and furrows, then to gallop more roundly or in leſs compaſs, or according to the vulgar phraſe, two up and two down, that thereby he may ſtrike his furrow clear, and avoid ſetting his fore-feet in the bottom of it, and by that means fall over; but, by the way, galloping, tho' he ſhould happen to ſet his feet in a furrow, yet carrying his body ſo round, and reſting on the hand in his gallop, would prevent his falling; and to his perfection, nothing but uſe, and ſuch moderate exerciſe, can bring him.

According to theſe directions, you may hunt till about three o'clock in the afternoon, at which time ride him home in a foot-pace, as you came out in the morning; and be ſure that you let him walk out of the field: and as you are going home, conſider whether he hath ſweat a little, (for you muſt not ſweat him much the firſt time) but if not, then gallop him gently on ſome ſkelping earth, till he ſweat at the roots of his ears, a little on his neck, and in his flank; but it muſt be done of his own voluntary motion, without the compulſion of whip or ſpur: and then when he is cool as aforeſaid, have him home and ſtable him, and by no means walk him in hand to cool him, for fear of his cooling too faſt, nor do not waſh him, for fear of cauſing an obſtruction of the natural courſe of the humours, and by that means cauſe an inflammation in his legs, which is the original cauſe of the ſcratches.

His ſtall being well littered againſt he comes home, ſet him up, tying his head to the ring with the bridle, and then rub him well down with dry ſtraw all over his head, neck, fore bowels, belly, flank, buttocks, and legs, and after that rub his body over with a dry cloth, till he has not a wet hair left about him; the place where the ſaddle was, dry, in like manner, and cloath him immediately with his ordinary cloaths leſt he take cold; and if you ſuppoſe him to be very hot, throw a ſpare cloth over him, that he may not cool too faſt, which you may abate when you pleaſe, and ſo let him ſtand on his ſnaffle, two hours

or

or better, now and then ſtirring him in his ſtall with your whip, to prevent him from growing ſtiff in the legs and joints.

When that time is expired, and you think he is thoroughly cold, draw his bridle, rub his head, pick his feet from dirt or gravel, and put on his collar, and give him a quart or three pints of ſifted oats, mixed with a handful of clean dreſſed hempſeed; but give him not more than the quantity preſcribed, for fear of taking away his ſtomach, which will be very much weakened through the heat of his body, and want of water.

Then take off the ſpare cloth, (if it has not been done before) for fear of keeping him hot too long; and when he has eaten his corn, throw a pretty quantity of hay, clean duſted, on his litter, and let him reſt two or three hours, or thereabouts.

Then having prepared him a good maſh, made of half a peck of malt, well ground, and boiling hot water, ſo much as the malt will ſweeten and the horſe will drink, ſtir them well together, and cover it over with a cloth, till the water has extracted the ſtrength of the malt, which will be almoſt as ſweet as honey, and feel ropy like bird-lime; being but little more than blood-warm, give it the horſe; but not before, leſt the ſteam go up his noſtrils and offend him; and when he has drank up the water, let him, if he pleaſes, eat the malt too.

But if he refuſe to drink it, you muſt not give him any other water that night, but place this drink in ſome place of his ſtall, ſo that he may not throw it down, and let it ſtand by him all night, that he may drink it when he pleaſes.

This maſh, or as it is called, horſe-caudle, will comfort his ſtomach, and keep his body in a due temperate heat after his day's hunting; it will cleanſe and bring away all manner of greaſe and groſs humours, which have been diſſolved by the day's labour; and the fume of the malt grains, after he has drank the water, will diſperſe the watery humours which might otherwiſe annoy his head,

and

and is allowed by all ſkilled in horſes, to be very advantageous on that account,

After he has eaten his maſh, ſtrip him of his cloathes, and run him over with a curry-comb, French bruſh, hair patch, woollen and cloth, and cloath him up again, and cleanſe his legs as well as his body, of all dirt and filth which may annoy them, and then remove him into another ſtall, (that you may not wet his litter) and bathe his legs all over from the knees with warm beef-broth, (or which is better) with a quart of warm urine, in which four ounces of ſalt-petre has been diſſolved; then rub his legs dry, ſet him again into his ſtall, and give him a good home feeding of oats, or bread, which he likes beſt, or both, and having ſhook good ſtore of litter under him, that he may reſt the better, and thrown him hay enough for all night, ſhut the ſtable door cloſe, and leave him to his reſt till the next morning.

About ſix or ſeven o'clock the next morning, go to him again, but don't diſturb him, for the morning's reſt is as refreſhing to a horſe as to a man; but when he riſes of his own accord, go to him, put back his dung from his litter, and obſerve what colour it is of, whether it be greaſy, and ſhine outwardly, and alſo break it with your feet, to ſee if it be ſo inwardly: for if it be greaſy and foul, which you may know by its ſhining outwardly, and by the ſpots like ſoap that will appear within, or if it appear of a dark brown colour, and harder than it was, it is a token that the hunting of the day before has done him good, by diſſolving part of the inward glut which was within him; and therefore the next time you hunt, you ſhould increaſe his labour but a little.

But if you perceive no ſuch ſymptoms, but that his dung appears bright, and rather ſoft than hard, without greaſe, and in a word, that it holds the ſame pale yellow colour that it did before he hunted, it is a ſign that a day's hunting made no diſſolution, but that his body remains in the ſame ſtate ſtill, and therefore the next day's hunting you may almoſt double his labour.

Having

Having made theſe remarks on his dung, then you may proceed to order him as on his days of reſt; that is to ſay, you ſhall give him a handful or two of oats before water, then dreſs, water, air, feed, &c. as in the firſt fortnight.

If you find him quick, and that he retains his bread but a little while, then only chip his bread lightly; but if it be ſlow, and he retains it long, then cut away all the cruſt and give it to ſome other horſe, and feed the hunting horſe only with the crumb, for that being light of digeſtion, is ſoon converted into chyle and excrements, but the cruſt being not ſo ſoon digeſtible, requires, by reaſon of its hardneſs, longer time before it is concocted.

The next day after your horſe has reſted, you may hunt him again as you did the firſt day, obſerving from the remarks you have made, to hunt him more or leſs according as you find his temper and conſtitution; and when you come home, put in practice the rules juſt now given.

And thus you may hunt him three times a week for a fortnight together, but do not fail to give him his full feeding, and no other ſcourings but maſhes and hemp-ſeed, which is equal in its virtue with the former, and only carries off ſuperfluous humours in the dung.

The third fortnight's diet, &c. for a HUNTING HORSE.

By this time the horſe will be drawn ſo clean, his fleſh will be ſo enſeamed, and his wind ſo improved, that he will be able to ride a chaſe of three or four miles without blowing or ſweating; and you may find by his chaul and flank, as well as his ribs, that he is in an indifferent good ſtate of body, and therefore in this next fortnight you muſt increaſe his labour, and by that means you will be able to make a judgment of what he will be able to do, and whether or no he will be ever fit for running for plates, or a match.

When your horſe is ſet over night, and fed early in the morning, as has been directed for the ſecond fortnight, then go into the field with him, and when he is empty, (as he will be by that time you have ſtarted your game) follow the dogs at a good round rate, as at half ſpeed, and

ſo

ſo continue till you have either killed or loſt your firſt hare.

This will ſo rack your horſe, and he will have ſo emptied himſelf, that he will be in a fit condition to be rid the next chaſe briſkly, which as ſoon as it is begun, you may follow the dogs at three quarters ſpeed, and as near as is fit for a good horſeman, and ſkilful huntſman; but be ſure to take care not to ſtrain him.

During this day's riding, you ought to obſerve nicely, your horſes ſweat, under his ſaddle and fore-bowels, and if it appear white, like froth or ſoap-ſuds, it is a ſign of inward glut and foulneſs, and that your day's exerciſe was enough for him, therefore ride him home, and order him as before directed.

But if it has happened that your exerciſe has been ſo eaſy as not to ſweat your horſe thoroughly, then you ought to make a train-ſcent of four miles in length, or thereabouts, and laying on your fleeteſt dogs, ride it briſkly, and afterwards cool him in the field, and ride him home and order him as has been before directed.

A train-ſcent, is the training of a dead cat or fox, (and in caſe of neceſſity a red herring) three or four miles, according as the rider ſhall pleaſe, and then laying the dogs on the ſcent.

It will be proper to keep two or three couple of the fleeteſt hounds that can poſſibly be procured, for this purpoſe.

When you take off your horſe's bridle, give him a good quantity of rye-bread inſtead of hemp-ſeed and oats, and for that purpoſe bake a peck loaf, for this being cold and moiſt, will be of uſe to cool his body after his labour, and prevent coſtiveneſs, to which you will find him addicted; then give him hay, and afterwards a maſh, and order him in all things as before directed.

The next morning, if you perceive by his dung that his body is diſtempered, and that he is hard and bound, then take ſome crumbs of your rye-bread, and work it with as much ſweet freſh butter as will make it into a paſte, and make it up into balls about the bigneſs of a large walnut, of which give him five or ſix in a morning.

After

After this put the ſaddle on upon the cloth, get up and gallop him gently upon ſome graſs plot or cloſe that is near at hand, till he begins to ſweat under his ears, and then carry him into the ſtable again, rub him well and throw a ſpare cloth over him, and a good quantity of freſh litter under him, and let him ſtand two hours on the bridle; then give him a quantity of rye-bread, and ſome hay to chew upon, then procure him a warm maſh, and feed him with bread and corn, as much as he will eat, and alſo as much hay as he will eat.

The next day water him abroad, and order him as it is before directed for days of reſt.

The next day you may hunt him again, but not ſo hard as you did the time before, till the afternoon; but then ride him after the dogs briſkly, and if that does not make him ſweat thoroughly, make another train-ſcent, and follow the dogs three quarters ſpeed, that he may ſweat heartily: then cool him a little, and ride him home, and as ſoon as he is come in the ſtable, give him two or three balls as big as walnuts, of the following excellent ſcouring.

Take of butter, eight ounces; lenitive electuary, four ounces; gromwel, broom, and purſly-ſeeds, of each two ounces; anniſeeds, liquorice, and cream of tartar, of each one ounce; of jalap, two ounces; reduce the ſeeds to a powder, then ſtir them into a paſte with the electuary and butter; knead it well together, put it into a pot, and keep it cloſe ſtopped for uſe.

As ſoon as the horſe has taken theſe balls, rub him dry, dreſs him, and cloath him warm, and let him ſtand two or three hours upon the ſnaffle; and afterwards give him two or three handfuls of rye-bread, and order him as you have been directed before, as to hay, provender, maſh, &c. and ſo leave him till the morning.

In the morning take notice of his dung, whether it ſtill retains the true colour, or be dark, black, or red, and high-coloured: in the next place, whether it be looſe and thin, or hard and dry.

If

If it be of a pale yellow, which is the right colour, it is a ſign of health, ſtrength, and cleanneſs; if it be dark, or black, then it is a ſign there is greaſe and other ill humours ſtirred up, which are not yet evacuated: if it be red and high coloured, then it is a ſign that his blood is feveriſh and diſtempered, by means of inward heat: if it be looſe and thin, it is a ſign of weakneſs; but if hard and dry, it ſhews the horſe to be hot inwardly, or elſe that he is a foul feeder; but if his dung be in a medium between hard and ſoft, and ſmell ſtrong, it is a ſign of health and vigour.

When theſe obſervations have been made on his dung, then feed, dreſs, water, &c. as on his uſual days of reſt, always letting him have variety, and his fill of corn and bread.

The next day have him abroad into the field again, but do not by any means put him to any labour more than taking him from hill to hill after the dogs, keeping him within ſound of their cry; for the intent of this day's exerciſe is only to keep him in breath, and procure him an appetite.

In riding, let him ſtand ſtill to dung, and look back on it, that you may be able to judge of his ſtate thereby.

When the day is near ſpent, ride him home without the leaſt ſweat, and order him as at other times, except that you are not to give him any ſcouring, or rye-bread.

You may, if you pleaſe, this day, water your horſe, both at going into the field and coming out, galloping him after it, to warm the water in his belly.

The next day being to be a day of reſt, order him in the ſame manner in every reſpect as on other days of reſt; and as you have ſpent this week, you muſt ſpend the next, without any alteration; and by this time, and this management, you may depend upon it, that your horſe has been drawn clean enough for ordinary hunting.

Having thus drawn your horſe clean according to art, you will perceive thoſe ſigns before mentioned very plainly, for his fleſh on his ſhort ribs and buttocks will be as hard as brawn, his flank will be thin, and nothing to be felt but a double ſkin, and chaps ſo clean from fat, glut,

or kernels, that you may hide your fiſts in them; and above all, this exerciſe will give plain demonſtration of the effectualneſs of this method of ordering him, for he will run three or four miles three quarters ſpeed without ſweating, or ſcarce ſo much as blowing.

When the horſe has been brought to this ſtate, you muſt uſe no more ſcouring after hunting, becauſe nature has nothing to work on, but rye-bread and maſh, except the horſe be now and then troubled with ſome little poſe in his head: and then bruiſe a little muſtard ſeed in a fine linen rag, and ſteep it in a quart of ſtrong ale, for three or four hours, and then untying the rag, mix the muſtard ſeed and the ale with a quarter of a peck of oats, and give it to him.

In the laſt place, the horſe having been thus drawn clean, you ought to take care not to let him grow foul again, through want of either airing or hunting, or any other negligence, leſt by that means you make yourſelf a double trouble.

Of breeding HUNTING *and* RACE HORSES.

Procure either an Arabian, a Spaniſh, or Turkiſh horſe, or a Barb for a Stallion, which is well-ſhaped, and of a good colour, to beautify your race; and ſome adviſe that he be well marked too, tho' others are of opinion, that marks are not ſo ſignificant as Mr. Blundeville and Frederigo Griſſone would have us believe.

Thoſe who have travelled into thoſe parts report, that the right Arabian horſes are valued at an almoſt incredible rate, at five hundred, and others ſay, two or three thouſand pounds an horſe; that the Arabs are as careful of keeping the genealogies of their horſes, as princes are in keeping their pedigrees; that they keep them with medals; and that each ſon's portion is uſually two ſuits of arms, two ſcymeters, and one of theſe horſes. The Arabs boaſt, that they will ride eighty miles a day without drawing bitt; which is no more than has been performed by ſeveral of our Engliſh horſes.

But

But much more was performed by a highwayman's horſe, who having committed a robbery, rode on the ſame day from London to York, being two hundred miles.

Notwithſtanding their great value, and the difficulty in bringing them from Scanderoon to England by ſea, yet by the care and charge of ſome breeders in the north, the Arabian horſe is no ſtranger to thoſe parts, where probably may be ſeen at this day ſome of the race, if not a true Arabian ſtallion.

The Spaniſh horſe (in the duke of Newcaſtle's opinion) is the nobleſt horſe in the world, and the moſt beautiful that can be; no horſe is ſo beautifully ſhaped all over from head to croup, and he is abſolutely the beſt ſtallion in the world, either for breed, for the manage, the war, the pad, hunting, or running horſes; but as they are excellent, ſo is their price extravagant, three or four hundred piſtoles being a common price for a Spaniſh horſe.

Several have been ſold for ſeven hundred, eight hundred, and a thouſand piſtoles a-piece.

The beſt Spaniſh horſes are bred in Andaluſia, and particularly at Cordova, where the king has many ſtuds of mares, and ſo likewiſe have ſeveral of the Spaniſh nobility and gentry.

Now beſides the great price they coſt at firſt, the charges of the journey from Spain to England will be very conſiderable; for firſt they muſt travel from Andaluſia to Bilboa, or St. Sebaſtian, the neareſt ports to England, and is at the leaſt four hundred miles; and in that hot country, you cannot with ſafety travel your horſe above twenty miles a day; and beſides, you muſt be at the expence of a Groom and Farrier, beſides the caſualty of ſickneſs, lameneſs, and death: ſo that if he ſhould happen to prove an extraordinary good horſe, by the time you have got him home, he will alſo be an extraordinary dear one.

The Turkiſh horſe is but little inferior to the Spaniſh in beauty, but ſomewhat odd ſhaped, his head being ſomewhat like that of a camel; he hath excellent eyes, a thin neck, excellent riſen, and ſomewhat large of body: his croup is like that of a Barb, but very ſinewy, good paſ-

terns, and good hoofs: they never amble, but trot very well, and are at preſent accounted better ſtallions for gallloppers than Barbs.

Some merchants tell us, that there cannot be a more noble and diverting ſight to a lover of horſes, than to walk into the paſtures near Conſtantinople, about ſoiling time, where he may ſee many hundred gallant horſes tethered, and every horſe has his attendant or keeper, with his little tent placed near him to lie in, that he may look to him and take care to ſhift him to freſh graſs.

The price of a Turkiſh horſe is commonly one hundred or one hundred and fifty pounds: and when bought, it is difficult to get a paſs, the Grand Signor being ſo very ſtrict, that he ſeldom (but upon very extraordinary occaſions) permits any of his horſes to be exported,

But if you ſhould attain a liberty ſo to do, and travel by land, unleſs you have a Turk or two for a convoy, you will be ſure to have them ſeized on by the way.

And beſides, your will find the ſame difficulties of a long journey, for you muſt come through Germany, which is a very long way, and the ſame charge attending it, that is, a groom and a farrier, who muſt be careful that they intruſt no perſon whatſoever with the care of him but themſelves, eſpecially in ſhoeing him, for 'tis the common practice beyond ſea, as well as here, wherever they ſee a fine horſe, to hire a farrier to prick him, that they may buy him for a ſtallion.

But ſome perſons chuſe to buy horſes at Smyrna in Antolia, and from thence, and likewiſe from Conſtantinople, to tranſport them to England by ſea, which if the wind ſerves right, arrive in England in a month; though generally the merchants voyages are not made in much leſs than two or three months.

The Barb is little inferior to any of the former in beauty; but our modern breeders account him too ſlender and lady-like to breed on, and therefore, in the north of England, they prefer the Spaniſh and Turkiſh horſe before him.

He

He is ſo lazy and negligent in his walk, that he will ſtumble on carpet ground.

His trot is like that of a cow, his gallop low and with much eaſe to himſelf; but he is for the moſt part ſinewy and nervous, excellently winded, and good for a courſe, if he be not over-weighed.

The mountain Barbs are eſteemed the beſt; becauſe they are ſtrongeſt and largeſt: they belong to the Allarbes, who value them themſelves as much as other nations do, and therefore will not part with them to any perſons except to the Prince of the land to which they belong, who can at any time at his pleaſure command them for his own uſe; but for the other more ordinary ſort, they are to be met with pretty common in the hands of our nobility and gentry; or if you ſend to Languedoc, or Provence, in France, they may be bought there for forty or fifty piſtoles a horſe.

Or if you ſend to Barbary, you may buy one for thirty pounds, or thereabouts; but in this caſe too, the charges and journey will be great; for though it be no great voyage from Tunis to Marſeilles in France, yet from Marſeilles to Calais, by land, is the whole length of France, and from thence they are ſhipped for England.

The next thing to be conſidered is the choice of mares, and according to the duke of Newcaſtle's opinion, the fitteſt mare to breed out of, is one that has been bred of an Engliſh mare by ſire and dam, that is well fore-handed, well underlaid, and ſtrong put together in general; and in particular, ſee that ſhe have a lean head, wide noſtrils, open chaul, a big weaſand, and the wind pipe ſtrait and looſe; and of about five or ſix years old; and be ſure that the ſtallion be not too old.

As for the food of the STALLION;

Keep him as high as poſſible you can, for the firſt four or five months before the time of covering, with old clean oats and ſplit beans, well hull'd, and if you pleaſe you may add bread to them, ſuch as you will be hereafter directed to make; and now and then a handful of clean

wheat may be given him, or oats waſhed in ſtrong ale, for variety.

Be ſure to let him have plenty of good old ſweet hay, well cleanſed from duſt, and good wheat ſtraw to lie on; water him twice a day, at ſome fair running ſtream, or elſe in a clear ſtanding pond water, if you cannot have the firſt; and gallop him after he hath drank, in ſome meadow or level piece of ground.

Do not ſuffer him to drink his fill at his firſt coming to the water, but after his firſt draught, gallop and ſcope him up and down to warm him, and then bring him to the water again and let him drink his fill, galloping him again as before, never leaving the water till he hath drank as much as he will.

By this means you will prevent raw crudities, which the coldneſs of the water would otherwiſe produce, to the detriment of his ſtomach, if you had permitted him to drink his fill at firſt, whereas by allowing him his fill (tho' by degrees) at laſt, you keep his body from drying too faſt.

As for other rules for the ordering him after watering and the hours of feeding, &c. they will be more proper.

When the ſtallion is in luſt, and the time of covering is come, which is beſt to be in May, that the foals may fall in the April following, otherwiſe they will have little or no graſs.

Then pull off his hinder ſhoes, and lead him to the place where the ſtud of mares are which you intend for covering, which place ought to be a cloſe, well fenced, and in it a little hut for a man to lie in, and a large ſhed with a manger, to feed your ſtallion with bread and corn during his abode with the mares, and ſhelter for him in the heat of the day, and in rainy weather: and this cloſe ought to be of ſufficient largeneſs to keep the mares well for two months.

Before you pull off his bridle, let him cover a mare or two in hand, then turn him looſe among them, and put all your mares to him, as well thoſe that are with foal, as thoſe which are not, for there is no danger in it; and by

that

that means they will all be ſerved in the height of their luſt, and according to the intention of nature.

When your ſtallion has covered them once, he will try them all over again, and thoſe that will admit him, he will ſerve; and when he hath done his buſineſs, he will beat againſt the pales, and attempt to be at liberty, which when your man finds, (who is to obſerve them night and day, and to take care that no other mares are put to your horſe, and to give you an account which take the horſe, and which not, &c.) then take him up, and keep him well as you did before, firſt giving him a maſh or two, to help to reſtore nature; for you will find him little but ſkin and bones, and his mane and tail will rot off.

Be ſure never to give him above ten or twelve mares in a ſeaſon at moſt, otherwiſe you will ſcarce recover him againſt the next covering ſeaſon.

Some adviſe to covering in hand, as the other is called covering out of hand, and is as follows: When you have brought both your horſe and your mare to a proper condition for breeding, by art and good feeding, then ſet ſome ordinary ſtone nag by her for a day or two, to woo her, and that will make her ſo prone to luſt, that ſhe will readily receive your ſtallion, which you ſhould preſent to her, either early in the morning, or late in an evening, for a day or two together, and let him cover in hand once or twice, if you pleaſe, at each time obſerving to give the horſe the advantage of ground, and have a perſon ready with a bucket of cold water to throw on the mare's ſhape immediately upon the diſmounting of the horſe, which will make her retain the ſeed ſhe received the better; eſpecially if you get on her back, and trot her up and down for a quarter of an hour, but take care of heating or ſtraining her: and it will not be amiſs if you let them faſt two hours after ſuch act, and then give each of them a warm maſh, and it is odds but this way your mares may be as well ſerved as the other, and your ſtallion will laſt you much longer.

If you take care to houſe the mares all the winter, and keep them well, their colts will prove the better.

Of

Of riding a HUNTING-MATCH *or* HEATS *for a* PLATE.

The firſt thing requiſite is a rider, who ought to be a faithful one, in whom you may confide; and he ſhould have a good cloſe ſeat, his knees being held firm to his ſaddle ſkirts, his toes being turned inwards, and his ſpurs outwards from the horſe's ſides, his left hand governing the horſe's mouth, and his right commanding the whip, taking care, during the whole time of his trial, to ſit firm in the ſaddle, without wavering, or ſtanding up in the ſtirrups, which actions do very much incommode a horſe, notwithſtanding the conceited opinion of ſome jockies, that it is a becoming ſeat.

In ſpurring his horſe, he ſhould not ſtrike him hard with the calves of his legs, as if he would beat the wind out of his body, but juſt turning his toes outwards, and bringing his ſpurs quick to his ſides; and ſuch a ſharp ſtroke will be of more ſervice towards the quickening of the horſe, and ſooner draw blood.

Let him be ſure never to ſpur him but when there is occaſion, and avoid ſpurring him under the fore-bowels, between his ſhoulder and girths, near the heart, (which is the tendereſt place of a horſe) till the laſt extremity.

As to the whipping the horſe, it ought to be over the ſhoulder on the near ſide, except upon hard running, and when you are at all, then ſtrike the horſe in the flank with a ſtrong jirk, the ſkin being tendereſt there, and moſt ſenſible of the laſh.

He muſt obſerve, when he whips and ſpurs his horſe, and is certain that he is at the top of his ſpeed, if then he claps his ears in his pole, or whiſks his tail, then he may be ſure that he bears him hard; and then he ought to give him as much comfort as he can, by ſawing his ſnaffle to and fro in his mouth, and by this means forcing him to open his mouth, which will comfort him and give him wind.

If in the time of riding there is any high wind ſtirring, if it be in his face, he ſhould let the adverſary lead, he holding hard behind him till he ſees an opportunity of giving

ing a looſe; yet he muſt take care to keep ſo cloſe to him, that his adverſary's horſe may break the wind from his, and that he, by ſtooping low in his ſeat, may ſhelter himſelf under him, which will aſſiſt the ſtrength of his horſe.

But on the contrary, if the wind be at his back, he muſt ride exactly behind him, that his own horſe may alone enjoy the benefit of the wind, by being as it were blown forward, and by breaking it from his adverſary as much as poſſible.

In the next place, obſerve what ground your horſe delights moſt to run on, and bear the horſe (as much as your adverſary will give you leave) on level carpet ground, becauſe the horſe will naturally be deſirous to ſpend him more freely thereon; but on deep earths give him more liberty, becauſe he will naturally favour himſelf thereupon.

If you are to run up hill, don't forget by any means to favour your horſe, and bear him, for fear of running him out of wind, but if it be down hill (if your horſe's feet and ſhoulders will endure it, and you dare venture your neck) always give him a looſe.

This may be obſerved as a general rule, that if you find your horſe to have the heels of the other, that then you be careful to preſerve his ſpeed till the laſt train ſcent, if you are not to run a ſtrait courſe; but if ſo, then till the end of the courſe, and ſo to huſband it then alſo, that you may be able to make a puſh for it at the laſt poſt.

In the next place, you are to acquaint yourſelf, as well as you can, of the nature and temper of your adverſary's horſe, and if he be fiery, then to run juſt behind, or juſt cheek by joul, and with the whip make as much noiſe as you can, that you may force him on faſter than his rider would have him, and by that means ſpend him the ſooner; or elſe keep juſt before him, on ſuch a ſlow gallop, that he may either over-reach, or by treading on your horſe's heels (if he will not take the leading) endanger falling over.

Take notice alſo on what ground your opponent's horſe runs the worſt, and be ſure to give a looſe on that earth, that

that he being forced to follow you, may be in danger of ſtumbling, or clapping on the back ſinews.

In this like manner, in your riding obſerve the ſeveral helps and corrections of the hand, the whip, and ſpur, and when, and how often he makes uſe of them; and when you perceive that his horſe begins to be blown, by any of the former ſymptoms, as clapping down his ears, whiſking his tail, holding out his noſe like a pig, &c. you may then take it for granted that he is at the height of what he can do; and therefore, in this caſe, take notice how your own rides, and if he runs chearfully and ſtrongly, without ſpurring, then be ſure to keep your adverſary to the ſame ſpeed, without giving him eaſe, and by ſo doing, you will quickly bring him to give out, or elſe diſtance him.

Obſerve at the end of every train ſcent what condition the other horſe is in, and how he holds out in his labour, of which you may be able to make a judgment by his looks, the working of his flank, and the ſlackneſs of his girths.

For if he looks dull, it is a ſign that his ſpirits fail him; if his flanks beat much, it is a token that his wind begins to fail him, and conſequently his ſtrength will do ſo too.

If his wind fail him, then his body will grow thin, and appear tucked up, which will make his girths, to the eye, ſeem to be ſlack; and therefore you may take this for a rule, that a horſe's wanting girting, after the firſt ſcent, provided he were girt cloſe at his firſt ſtarting, is a good ſign; and if you find it ſo, you need not much deſpair of winning the wager.

After the end of every train-ſcent, and alſo after every heat for a plate, you muſt have dry ſtraw and dry cloths, both linen and woollen, which have been ſteeped in urine and ſalt-petre a day or two, and then dried in the ſun, and alſo one or two of each muſt be brought into the field wet; and after the train has been ended, two or three perſons muſt help you; and after the groom has, with a knife of heat, ſcraped off all the ſweat from the horſe's neck, body, &c. then they muſt rub him well down dry, all over, firſt with

with the dry ſtraw, and then with dry cloths, whilſt others are buſy about his legs; and as ſoon as they have rubbed him dry, then let them chafe them with the wet cloths, and never give over till you are called by the judges to ſtart again.

The next thing to be regarded, are the judges or triers office, who are to ſee that all things are ordered according to the articles agreed on, which to that end ought to be read before the horſes ſtart.

Next, that each trier on whoſe ſide the train is to be led, according as the articles give directions for its leading, according to the advice of the rider, or his knowledge of the nature and diſpoſition of that horſe on whoſe ſide he is choſe.

Next, that each trier be ſo advantageouſly mounted, as to ride up behind the horſes (but not upon them) all day, and to obſerve that the contrary horſe ride his true ground, and obſerve the articles in every particular, or elſe not to permit him to proceed.

Next, that after each train-ſcent be ended, each trier look to that horſe againſt which he is choſen, and obſerve that he be no way relieved but with rubbing, except liberty on both ſides be given to the contrary.

Next, as ſoon as the time allowed for rubbing be expired, which is generally half an hour, they ſhall command them to mount, and if either rider refuſe, it may be lawful for the other to ſtart without him; and having beat him the diſtance agreed on, the wager is to be adjudged on his ſide.

Next, the triers ſhall keep off all other horſes from croſſing the riders; only they themſelves may be allowed to inſtruct the riders by word of mouth, how to ride, whether ſlow or faſt, according to the advantages he perceives may be gained by his directions.

Laſtly, if there be any weight agreed on, they ſhall ſee that both horſes bring their true weight to the ſtarting-place, and carry it to the end of the train, upon the penalty of loſing the wager.

Now

Now in running for a plate there are not ſo many obſervations to be made, nor more directions required, than what have been already given, only this; if you know your horſe to be tough at bottom, and that he will ſtick at mark, to ride him each heat, according to the beſt of his performance, and avoid as much as poſſible either riding at any particular horſe, or ſtaying for any, but to ride each heat throughout with the beſt ſpeed you can.

But if you have a very fiery horſe to manage, or one that is hard-mouthed and difficult to be held, then ſtart him behind the reſt of the horſes, with all the coolneſs and gentleneſs imaginable; and when you find that he begins to ride at ſome command, then put up to the other horſes, and if you find they ride at their eaſe, and are hard held, then endeavour to draw them on faſter; but if you find their wind begin to rake hot, and that they want a ſob, if your horſe be in wind, and you have a looſe in your hand, keep them up to their ſpeed till you come within three quarters of a mile of the end of the heat, and then give a looſe and puſh for it, and leave to fortune and the goodneſs of your horſe the event of your ſucceſs.

Laſtly, when either your hunting-match or the trial for the plate is ended, as ſoon as you have rubbed your horſe dry, cloth him up and ride him home, and the firſt thing give him the following drink to comfort him.

Beat the yolks of three eggs, and put them into a pint and a half of ſweet milk, then warm it luke-warm, and put to it three pennyworth of ſaffron, and three ſpoonfuls of ſallad oil, and give it him in a horn.

Having done this, dreſs him ſlightly over with the curry-comb, bruſh, and woollen-cloth, and then bathe the place where the ſaddle ſtood with warm ſack, to prevent warbles; and waſh the ſpurring places with piſs and ſalt, and afterwards aniont them with turpentine and powder of jett, mixed together; then litter the ſtable very well, clothing him up as quick as poſſible, and let him ſtand for two hours.

Then feed him with rye-bread, after that with a good maſh,

maſh, and give him his belly full of hay, and what corn and bread he will eat.

Then batho his legs well with urine and ſalt-petre, leave him corn in his locker, and ſo let him reſt till the next morning, at which time order him as before directed in his days of reſt.

How to order a horſe for a match or plate.

When you have matched your horſe, or deſign to put him in for a plate, you ſhould conſider that you ought to reſerve a month at leaſt, to draw his body perfectly clean, and to refine his wind to that degree of perfection that is capable of being attained by art.

In the firſt place, take an exact view of the ſtate of his body, both outwardly and inwardly, as whether he be low or high in fleſh, or whether he be dull and heavy when abroad, and if this has been cauſed by too hard riding, or by means of ſome greaſe that has been diſſolved by hunting, and has not been removed by ſcouring.

If he appear ſluggiſh and melancholy from either of theſe cauſes, then give him half an ounce of diapente in a pint of good old Malaga ſack, which will both cleanſe his body and revive his ſpirits.

Then for the firſt week feed him continually with bread, oats, and ſplit beans, giving him ſometimes the one and ſometimes the other, according to what he likes beſt, always leaving him ſome in his locker for him to eat at leiſure when you are abſent: and when you return at your hours of feeding, take away what is left and give him freſh, till you have made him wanton and playful.

To this purpoſe, take notice, that tho' you ride him every day morning and evening, on airing, and every other day on hunting, yet you are not to ſweat him, or put him to any violent labour, the deſign of this week's ordering being to keep him in wind and breath, and to prevent purſiveneſs.

But take notice of this, that your oats, beans, and bread, are now to be ordered after another manner than what they were before; for firſt, the oats muſt be well dried in the

ſun, and then put into a clean bag and ſoundly beat with a flail or cudgel, till you think they are hulled, then take them out of the bag and winnow them clean, both from hulls and duſt, and give them to your horſe as there is occaſion.

After the ſame manner muſt you order your beans, ſeparating them from the hulls, which are apt to breed the glut, and muſt either be thrown away, or given among chaff, to ſome more ordinary horſe.

And as for the bread, which was only chipt before, now the cruſt muſt be cut clean off, and be otherwiſe diſpoſed of, it being hard of digeſtion, and will be apt to heat and dry the horſe's body; and beſides, you muſt make a finer bread than before, as follows.

Take two pecks of beans, and a peck of wheat, and let them be ground together, but not too fine, to prevent too much bran being in the bread; and dreſs one peck of the meal through a fine range, and knead it up with new ale yeaſt, and the whites of a dozen new laid eggs, and bake this in a loaf by itſelf; but dreſs the reſt of the meal through a boulter, and knead it only with ale and yeaſt, and uſe it in all other points as the former: the peck loaf is to be given the horſe when you ſet him, and the other at ordinary times.

Having treated of the condition of thoſe horſes which are melancholy and low of fleſh, I ſhall now ſpeak of thoſe which are briſk and lively: If your horſe be ſo, that when you lead him out of the ſtable he will leap and play about you, then you muſt not only omit giving him the ſcouring of ſack and diapente, but any other whatſoever, for there being no foul humours, nor ſuperfluous matter left in his body, for the phyſick to work upon, it will prey upon the ſtrength of his body, and by that means weaken it.

If your horſe be engaged in a hunting match, you muſt ſweat him twice this week, but not by hunting him after the hare, but by train-ſcents, ſince the former on this occaſion may prove deceitful; for tho' the hounds ſhould be very ſwift, yet the ſcent being cold, the dogs will very often

often be at a fault, and by that means the horſe will have many ſobs: ſo that when he comes to run train-ſcents in earneſt, he will expect eaſe for his wind.

Therefore lead your train-ſcents with a dead cat, over ſuch grounds as you are likely to run on, and beſt agrees with the humour of your horſe, and alſo chuſe the fleeteſt hounds you can get, and they will keep your horſe up to the height of his ſpeed.

As to the number of train-ſcents that you ſhould ride at a time, that is to be ordered according to the match you are to run, or rather according to the ſtrength of your horſe, and ability for performing his heats; for if you labour him beyond his ſtrength, it will take him off his ſpeed, weaken his limbs, and daunt his ſpirit.

If you give him too little exerciſe, it will render him liable to be purſive, and full of ill humours, as glut, &c. and incline him to a habit of lazineſs, ſo that when he comes to be put to labour beyond his uſual rate, he will grow reſtive and ſettle, like a jade.

But ſo far may be ſaid by way of direction, that if you are to run eight train-ſcents, and the ſtrait courſe, more or leſs, you are to put him to ſuch ſevere labour, not above twice in the whole month's keeping.

And if it be in the firſt fortnight, it will be the better, for then he will have a whole fortnight to recover his ſtrength in again: and as for his labour in his laſt fortnight, let it be proportionate to his ſtrength and wind, as ſometimes half his taſk, and then three quarters of it.

Only obſerve, that the laſt trial you make in the firſt fortnight, be a train-ſcent more than your match, for by that means you will find what he is able to do.

If you deſign your horſe for a Plate, let him take his heats according to this direction, only let him be on the place, that he may be acquainted with the ground; and as for the hounds, you may omit them, as not being tied to their ſpeed, but that of your adverſary's horſe.

But as to the number of heats, let them be according to what the articles exact; only obſerve, that as to the ſharp-

neſs of them, they muſt be regulated according to his ſtrength, and the goodneſs of his wind.

And when you heat him, provide ſome horſes upon the courſe to run againſt him; this will quicken his ſpirits and encourage him, when he finds he can command them at his pleaſure.

And here you muſt obſerve the ſame rule, not to give the horſe a bloody heat for ten days or a fortnight, before the plate be to run for; and let the laſt heat you give him before the day of trial be in all his cloths, and juſt ſkelp it over, which will make him run the next time the more vigorouſly, when he ſhall be ſtript naked and feel the cold air pierce him.

During this month, and on his reſting days, and after his ſweats on heating days, (if there be any occaſion for ſweating him) you muſt obſerve the ſame rules which have been given for the firſt week of the third fortnight's keeping, only you muſt omit all ſcourings but rye-bread and maſhes, ſince your horſe being in ſo perfect a ſtate of body, has no need of any, except you ſhall judge there is occaſion, and that the horſe proves thirſty, about eight or nine o'clock at night you muſt give him the following julep, to cool and quench his thirſt.

Take two quarts of barley-water, three ounces of ſyrup of violets, two ounces of ſyrup of lemons, and having mixed them together, give them the horſe to drink, and if he refuſe, place it ſo that he may not throw it down, and let it ſtand by him all night.

During the laſt fortnight you muſt give him dried oats that have been hulled by heating, and having waſhed half a ſtrike of oats in the whites of a dozen or twenty eggs, ſtir them together, and let them lie all night to ſoak, and ſpread them abroad in the ſun the next morning, till they are as dry as they were at firſt, and ſo give them to your horſe, and when theſe are ſpent, prepare another quantity after the ſame manner.

But if you find your horſe inclinable to be coſtive, then give him oats waſhed in two or three whites of eggs and ale beaten up together, to cool his body and keep it moiſt.

Give

Give him not any maſh for the laſt week, only the barley-water before directed, but let him have his fill of hay, till a day before he is to ride the match, when you muſt give it him more ſparingly, that he may have time to digeſt that he has eaten, and then, and not before, you may muzzle him with your caveſſon; and be ſure that day, and not till the morning he is led out, to feed him as much as poſſible, for ſuch a day's labour will require ſomething to maintain his ſtrength.

Therefore in the morning before you are to lead out, give him a toaſt or two of white bread ſteeped in ſack, which will invigorate him; and when you have done, lead him out into the field.

But if you are to run for a plate, which commonly is not till three o'clock in the afternoon, then by all means have him out early in the morning air, that he may empty his body, and when he is come in from airing, feed him with toaſts in ſack; conſidering that as too much fulneſs will endanger his wind, ſo too long faſting will cauſe faintneſs.

When he has eaten what you thought fit to give him, put on his caveſſon, and having afterwards ſoundly chafed his legs with piece-greaſe and brandy warmed together; or train-oil (which likewiſe ought to be uſed daily at noon, for a week before the match, or longer, if you ſee cauſe) ſhake up his litter and ſhut the ſtable up cloſe, and take care that there is no noiſe made near him, and let him reſt till the hour comes that he is to go out into the field.

Of MARES.

A Mare may be covered when ſhe is paſſed two years old, though the beſt time is after four years old, when ſhe will nouriſh her colt beſt; and though ſhe may breed till thirteen, yet when ſhe is paſt ten it does not do ſo well, for commonly an old mare's colt will be heavy in labour. The proper time for covering, is reckoned from the end of the firſt quarter to the full moon, or a

the full; for thoſe colts will be ſtronger and hardier of nature; whereas 'tis obſerved in thoſe that are covered after the change, that they will be tender and nice: but before the mare is covered, ſhe ſhould be taken into the houſe about ſix weeks, and be well fed with good hay and oats, well ſifted, to the end ſhe may have ſtrength and ſeed to perform the office of generation.

As for the manner of covering, ſhe muſt be brought out into ſome broad place, and tied to a poſt; then bring out ſome ſtone jade to dally with her, to provoke her to appetite; after which let the ſtallion be led out by two men, and let him leap her in the morning faſting, and when he is diſmounting, let a pail of cold water be thrown upon her ſhape, which by reaſon of the coldneſs will make her ſhrink in, and truſs up her body, whereby ſhe is cauſed to retain the ſeed the better: then take away the ſtallion, and let the mare be put out of the hearing of the horſe, and let her neither eat or drink in four or five hours after, and then give her a maſh and white water: you may know if ſhe ſtands to her covering, by her keeping a good ſtomach and her not neighing at the ſight of a horſe; ſo likewiſe if ſhe does not ſtale often, nor frequently open and ſhut her ſhape; or that her belly four days after covering be more gaunt, the hair be more ſleek and cloſe to her ſkin, and the like. Some there are who put the horſe and mare together into an empty houſe for three or four nights, and take the horſe away in the morning and feed him well, but the mare ſparingly, and eſpecially they give her but little water.

Now as for the ordering the mare after covering, let her be kept to the ſame diet as before, for three weeks or a month, leſt the ſeed be impaired before it be formed in the womb; and let her be kept ſweet and clean, without any exerciſe, during three weeks or a month: and in the houſe till mid-day, with her feet well pared, and with a thin pair of ſhoes on: take her up again about the latter end of September, if not before, and keep her to the end of her foaling.

If

If ſhe cannot foal, hold her noſtrils ſo that ſhe cannot take her wind; or if that will not do, take the quantity of a walnut of madder, diſſolve it into a pint of ale, and give give it warm to her; and in caſe ſhe cannot avoid her Secundine, then boil two or three handfuls of fennel in running-water, and put half a pint thereof in as much ſack, or for want thereof, a pint of ſtrong beer or ale, with a fourth part of ſallad oil, mixed together, and give it her lukewarm in her noſtrils, and hold them cloſe for a good ſpace; or for want thereof, give her good green wheat or rye, but the laſt is beſt, and they are as effectual; and let her not eat her clean, for that is very unwholeſome and will dry up her milk.

When ſhe has foaled and licked her foal, milk and ſtroke her before the colt ſucks, which will both cauſe her to bring down her milk and make it to multiply, and keep it ſo that it do not clod; and in caſe ſhe becomes dry, boil as much milk as you can get from her with the leaves of lavender, and ſpike, and bathe the udder with it warm, till it be broken, and the knobs and knots diſſolved: her water now muſt be white water, which is bran put into water, and give her ſweet maſhes; and a month after foaling, let her have a maſh with ſome brimſtone and ſaven in it, which will be a great preſervation to the colt; after which, if ſhe be moderately laboured at plough or harrow, both ſhe and the colt will be the better, provided ſhe be kept from raw meats while ſhe remains in the ſtable, which will both increaſe her milk, and cauſe her colt to thrive the better; and care muſt be taken not to ſuffer the colt to ſuck her when ſhe is hot, leſt thereby you ſurfeit the colt.

In caſe you are deſirous no mare ſhould go barren, in the month of July, or in the beginning of Auguſt, get a mare or two that have not been covered that year before, and enforce them to be horſed; when they ſhall be ready to be covered, you muſt turn them, with ſome other horſe which you eſteem not as your beſt horſe, among your ſtud of mares, and ſo he covering the mare or mares you turned in with him into the ſtud, ſhall cauſe the reſt of them, if any of them have not conceived at their firſt coverings, to

come to that horſe again; whereby you ſhall be ſure to keep no mare barren all the year, but have a colt of every mare, though not of your beſt horſe. You may ſuffer your horſe to run amongſt your mares three weeks or a month; but if you turn him into your ſtud, putting in no mare with him ready to be covered, he will at his firſt entering beat all the mares, and perhaps hurt thoſe that had conceived before, and ſo do more hurt than good.

Some reckon the beſt recipe to bring a mare in ſeaſon and make her retain, is to give her to eat, for the ſpace of eight days before you bring her to the horſe, about two quarts of hemp-ſeed in the morning, and the ſame at night; but if ſhe refuſes to eat it, mix with it a little bran or oats, or elſe let her faſt for a while: and if the ſtallion eats alſo of it, it will contribute much to generation.

It is a maxim, that a mare ſhould never be horſed while ſhe is bringing up her foal, becauſe the foal to which ſhe is giving ſuck, as well as that in her belly, will receive prejudice thereby, and the mare herſelf will be alſo ſooner ſpent; but if you would have your mares covered, let it be ſeven or eight days after ſhe has foaled, that ſhe may have time to cleanſe; and if it may be conveniently done, do not give her the ſtallion till ſhe deſires him, and alſo increaſe, by all means poſſible, that paſſion, by ſtrong feeding, &c.

For the producing of males, the mare muſt be brought in ſeaſon, and covered very early in the morning, any day before the fourth day of the moon until it be full, but never in the increaſe: and thus ſhe will not fail to bring forth a male colt.

Mares, beſides the many diſtempers they are liable to in common with horſes, and which will be found under their ſeveral names, have ſome others, peculiar to their kind only, of which we ſhall ſpeak briefly, and their cure. If your mares be barren boil good ſtore of the herb agnus in the water ſhe drinks; or ſtamp a good handful of leeks with four or five ſpoonfuls of wine, to which put ſome cantharides, and ſtrain them altogether, with a ſufficient quantity of water to ſerve her two days together, by pouring

ing

ing the ſame into her nature, with a gliſter-pipe made for that purpoſe; and at three days end offer the horſe to her, and if he covers her, waſh her nature twice together with cold water, or take a little quantity of nitrum, ſparrows dung, and turpentine, wrought together, and made like a ſuppoſitory, and putting that in her nature, it will do.

If you would have her be fruitful, boil good ſtore of motherwort in the water ſhe drinks.

If ſhe loſes her belly, which ſhews a conſumption of the womb, give her a quart of brine to drink, having mugwort boiled therein.

If through good keeping ſhe forſakes her food, give her for two or three days together, a ball of butter and agnus caſtus chopped together.

If ſhe be ſubject to caſt her foal, keep her at graſs very warm, and once a week give her a good warm maſh of drink, which ſecretly knits beyond expectation.

You are to obſerve, that mares go with foal eleven months and as many days as they are years old; as for inſtance, a mare of nine years old, will carry her foal eleven months and nine days; ſo that you may ſo order the covering of your mares, that their foals may be brought forth, if you will, at ſuch times as there is abundance of graſs. See STALLION and COLT.

Of STALLIONS.

A Stallion is an ungelt horſe, deſigned for the covering of mares, in order to propagate the ſpecies: and when his ſtones are taken away, and he is gelt, is called a gelding.

Now in the chuſing ſtone-horſes, or ſtallions for mares, you ought to take great care that they neither have moon-eyes, watery-eyes, blood-ſhotten-eyes, ſplents, ſpavins, curbs, nor, if poſſible, any natural imperfections of any kind whatſoever: for if they have, their colts will take them hereditary from their parents.

But let them be the beſt, ableſt, higheſt-ſpirited, fair coloured and fineſt ſhaped; and a perſon ſhould inform himſelf

himſelf of all natural defects in them, of which none are free.

As for his age, he ought not to be younger, to cover a mare, than four years old, from which time forward he will beget colts till twenty.

Let the ſtallion be ſo high fed, as to be full of luſt and vigour, and then brought to the place where the mares are; take off his hinder ſhoes, and let him cover a mare in hand twice or thrice, to keep him ſober; then pull off his bridle, and turn him looſe to the reſt of the mares, which muſt be in a convenient cloſe, with ſtrong fences and good food, and there leave him till he has covered them all, ſo that they will take horſe no more; by which time his courage will be pretty well cooled.

Ten or twelve mares are enough for one horſe in the ſame year; it will be alſo neceſſary to have ſome little ſhed or hovel in the field, to which he may retreat to defend him from the rain, ſun, and wind, which are very weakening to a horſe: let there be likewiſe be a rack and a manger to feed him in, during his covering-time, and it would not be amiſs if one were to watch him during that time, for fear of any accident, and the better to know how often he covers each mare.

When he has done his duty, take him away from the mares, and remove them into ſome freſh paſture.

Take notice that when you would have mares covered, either in hand or otherwiſe, that both the ſtallion and mare ought to have the ſame feeding, viz. if the horſe be at hay and oats, which are commonly called hard meats, the mare ſhould be alſo at hard meat, otherwiſe ſhe will not be ſo fit to hold.

In the like manner, if the ſtallion be at graſs, you muſt alſo put the mare to graſs.

Thoſe mares which are in middling caſe, conceive the moſt eaſily; whereas thoſe that are very fat, hold with great difficulty; thoſe of them that are hot and in ſeaſon, retain a great deal better; their heat exciting the ſtallion, who, on his part, performs the action with greater vigour and ardour.

And

And when you cover a mare in hand, in order that ſhe may the more certainly hold, let the ſtallion and the mare be ſo placed in the ſtable, that they may ſee each other, keeping them ſo for ſome time, which will animate them both, and then they will hardly fail to generate.

For the ordering of a ſtallion, ſome give the following inſtructions:

Feed the ſtallion, for three months at leaſt, before he is to cover, with good oats, peaſe, or beans, or with coarſe bread, and a little hay, but a good deal of wheat ſtraw, carrying him twice a day out to water, walking him up and down for an hour after he has drank, but without making him ſweat.

If the ſtallion be not thus brought into wind before he covers, he will be in danger of becoming purſey, and broken winded: and if he be not well fed, he will not be able to perform his taſk, or at beſt the colts would be but pitiful and weak ones; and though you ſhould take great care to nouriſh him, yet you will take him in again very weak.

If you put him to many mares, he will not ſerve you ſo long, but his mane and tail will fall away by reaſon of poverty, and it will be a difficult matter to bring him to a good condition of body, againſt the year following.

He ought to have mares according to his ſtrength, as twelve or fifteen, or at moſt not above twenty.

Of STABLES.

AS to the ſituation of a ſtable, it ſhould be in a good air, and upon hard, firm, and dry ground, that in the winter the horſe may come and go clean in and out; and if it may be, it will be beſt if it be ſituated upon an aſcent, that the urine, foul water, or any wet, may be conveyed away by trenches or ſinks cut out for that purpoſe.

By no means let there be any hen-roofts, hog-ſties, or houſes of eaſement, or any other filthy ſmells near it, for hen-dung or feathers ſwallowed, oftentimes prove mortal, and

and the ill air of a jakes ſometimes cauſes blindneſs; and the ſmell of ſwine is apt to breed the farcin; and there is no animal that delights more in cleanlineſs, nor is more offended at unwholeſome ſavours than a horſe.

Brick is better for building ſtables than ſtone, the latter being ſubject to ſweating in wet weather, and the dampneſs and moiſture cauſes rheums and catarrhs.

Let the walls be of a good convenient thickneſs, at leaſt a brick and a half or two brick thick, both for the ſake of ſafety and warmth in winter, and to defend him from being annoyed with the heat in ſummer, which would hinder his digeſting his food.

It will be proper to have windows both on the eaſt and on the north ſides, that he may have the benefit of the north air in ſummer, and of the morning ſun from the eaſt in the winter.

Let the windows be glazed, and if they be ſaſhed it will not only be the handſomer, but will be more convenient to let air in at pleaſure; and let there be cloſe wooden ſhutters, that you may darken the ſtable in the middle of the day, which will incline the horſe to take his reſt as well in the day as in the night.

That part of the floor on which the horſe is to ſtand ſhould be made of oaken planks, for they will be both eaſier and warmer for the horſe to lie upon than ſtones; and be ſure to lay them level, for if they are laid higher before than behind, (as they generally are in Inns and Horſe-courſer's ſtables, that their horſes may appear to more advantage in ſtature) his hinder legs will ſwell, and he never can lie eaſily, becauſe his hinder parts will be ſtill ſlipping down.

Lay the planks croſs-ways, and not length-ways, and ſink a good trench underneath them, which may receive the urine through the holes bored in the planks, and convey it into ſome common receptacle.

Raiſe the ground behind him even with the planks, that he may continually ſtand upon a level, and let the floor behind him be paved with ſmall pebble; and be ſure to

to let that part of the ſtable where the racks ſtand be well wainſcoted.

Place two rings at each ſide of his ſtall for his halter to run through, which ſhould have a light wooden logger at the bottom of it, to poiſe it perpendicularly, but not ſo heavy as to tire the horſe, or to hinder him from eating.

Some recommend a drawer or locker made in the wainſcot partition, rather than a fixt manger, for him to eat his corn out of, which may be taken out to cleanſe at pleaſure.

Some again diſapprove of this way of feeding, thinking it may ſpoil his cheſt, and that his blowing upon his hay will make it nauſeous to his palate: but others again anſwer, that as to the ſpoiling of his cheſt, it rather ſtrengthens it and makes it firm; whereas on the contrary, the lifting of his head up high to the rack, will make him withy-cragged. But the way before-mentioned he will feed as he lies, which will be for his eaſe. And as to the hay, that may be given him by ſmall quantities at a time; and there will be this advantage in receiving his hay on the ground, the prone poſture will cleanſe his head from rheum or poſe, which he may happen by any ways to have gotten, and induce him to ſneeze and throw out all manner of watery humours that may annoy his head.

If you have ſtable room enough you may make partitions, and at the head, towards the manger, board them to that height that one horſe may not moleſt or ſmell to another, allowing each horſe room enough to turn about and lie down at pleaſure.

One of the ſtalls may be made convenient for you groom to lie in, in caſe of a match, or the ſickneſs of horſe.

Behind the ſtalls may be made a range of preſſes, with pegs to hang up ſaddles, bridles, &c. and ſhelves for other utenſils, pots for ointments, &c.

Let the floor over the ſtable be cieled, whether you make it a granary, or a lodging room for your groom, that no duſt may fall from it upon your horſes.

There are alſo other requiſites, as a dung-yard, a pump, a conduit; and if ſome pond or running water were near, it were better.

Courſing with GREYHOUNDS,

IS a recreation in great eſteem with many gentlemen. It affords greater pleaſure than hunting in ſome reſpects. As, firſt, becauſe it is ſooner ended. Secondly, it does not require ſo much toil. Thirdly, the game for the moſt part always in ſight. Fourthly, in regard to the delicate qualities and ſhape of the greyhound.

There are three ſeveral courſes with greyhounds, viz. at the deer, at the hare, and at the fox.

For the deer there are two ſorts of courſes, the one in the paddock, and the other either in the foreſt or purlieu.

For the paddock, there muſt be the greyhound, and the terrier, which is a kind of mungrel greyhound, whoſe buſineſs is to drive away the deer before the greyhounds are ſlipt, and moſt uſually a brace or leaſh are let ſlip; ſeldom more than two braces.

HARE-HUNTING.

THE beſt way in this, is to go and find out one ſitting, which is eaſily done by walking croſs the lands, either ſtubble, fallow or corn, and caſting your eye up and down; for in the ſummer ſeaſon they frequent ſuch places for fear of ticks, which are common in woods; alſo the rain and the fall of the leaf offend them.

The reſt of the year you muſt beat up and down with poles to ſtart them out of their forms and retreats, and ſome hares will not ſtir, until they are almoſt touched, and it is a certain ſign that ſuch hares will make an excellent courſe.

If

If a hare ſit near any cloſe or covert, and have her head towards the ſame with a fair field behind her, you may ride with as much company as you have between her and the covert before ſhe is put up, and then ſhe is likely to make her courſe towards the champaign, for ſhe ſeldom takes the ſame way that her head is, when ſhe ſits in her form.

When a hare is firſt ſtarted, you give her ground or law, which is commonly twelveſcore yards or more, according to the ground where ſhe ſits, or elſe you looſe much of your ſport, by putting an end to it too ſoon; and it is very pleaſant to ſee the turnings and windings, that the hare will make to ſave herſelf, which ſometimes proves effectual to her.

There are four ſorts of hares; ſome live in the mountains, ſome in the fields, ſome in marſhes, ſome every where, without any certain place of abode. The mountain hares are the ſwifteſt, the field hares are not ſo nimble, and thoſe of the marſhes are the ſloweſt; but the wandering hares are moſt dangerous to follow, for they are ſo cunning in the ways and mazes of the fields, running up the hills and rocks, becauſe by cuſtom they know a nearer way, with other tricks, to the confuſion of the dogs, and diſcouragement of the hunters.

The hares of the mountains often exerciſe themſelves in the vallies and plains, and through practice grow acquainted with the neareſt ways to their forms, or conſtant places of abode; ſo that when at any time they are hunted in the fields, ſuch is their ſubtil dodging, that they will dally with the huntſman till they ſeem to be almoſt taken, and then on a ſudden take the neareſt way to the mountains, and ſo take ſanctuary in the inacceſſible places, to which neither dogs nor horſes can or dare aſcend.

Hares which frequent buſhes and brakes are not able to endure labour, nor are very ſwift, becauſe of the pain in the feet, growing fat by means of idleneſs, and not uſing themſelves to running.

The field hare being leaner of body, and oftener chaſed, is more difficultly taken, by reaſon of her ſingular agility;

for when ſhe begins her courſe, ſhe bounds up from the ground as if ſhe flew, afterwards paſſes through all brambles, over thick buſhes and hedges, with all expedition; and if ſhe cometh into deep graſs or corn, ſhe eaſily delivers herſelf and ſlides through it, always holding up one ear, and bending it at pleaſure, to be the moderator of her chace.

Neither is ſhe ſo improvident and prodigal of her ſtrength, as to ſpend it all in one courſe, but ſhe has regard to the force of her purſuer, who if he be ſlow and ſluggiſh, ſhe is not profuſe of her ſtrength, nor uſes her utmoſt ſwiftneſs, but only advances gently before the dogs, yet ſafely from their clutches, reſerving her greateſt ſtrength for the time of greateſt neceſſity, knowing ſhe can out-run the dogs at her pleaſure, and therefore will not ſtrain herſelf more than ſhe is urged.

But if ſhe be purſued by a dog that is ſwifter than the reſt, then ſhe puts on with all the force ſhe can, and having once left the hunters and dogs a great way behind her, ſhe makes to ſome little hill, or riſing ground, where ſhe raiſes herſelf upon her hinder legs, that thereby ſhe may obſerve how far off, or how near her purſuers are.

The younger hares, by reaſon of their weak limbs, tread heavier on the earth than the older, and therefore leave the greater ſcent behind them.

At a year old they run very ſwiftly, and their ſcent is ſtronger in the woods than in the plain fields; and if they lie down on the earth (as they love to do) in red fallow grounds, they are eaſily deſcried.

Their footſteps in winter are more apparent than in ſummer, becauſe as the nights are longer, they travel farther; neither do they ſcent in winter mornings ſo ſoon as it is day, till the froſt is a little thawed: but eſpecially their footſteps are uncertain at the full of the moon, for then they leap and play together, ſcattering or putting out their ſcent or ſavour; and in the ſpring time alſo, when they do engender, they confound one another's footſteps by multitudes.

Hares

Hares and rabbits are miſchievous to nurſeries and newly planted orchards, by peeling off the bark of the plants; for the prevention of which ſome bind ropes about the trees to a ſufficient height; ſome daub them with tar, which being of itſelf hurtful to young plants, the miſchief is prevented by mixing with it any kind of greaſe, and boiling it over a fire, ſo as both may incorporate; then with a bruſh or little broom, daub over the ſtem of the tree as high as a hare or rabbit can reach; do this in November, and it will ſecure the trees for that whole year, it being in the winter time only in which they feed upon the bark.

Alſo ſome thin ſtuff out of a houſe of office, or the thick tempered with water, has been often applied with good ſucceſs; or the white waſh made uſe of by plaiſterers for whiting houſes, done once a year over the trees with a bruſh, will preſerve them from hares, deers, and other animals.

As for ſuch hares as are bred in warrens, the warreners have a crafty device to fatten them, which has been found by experience to be effectual; and that is, by putting wax into their ears to make them deaf, and then turning them into the place where they are to feed, where, being freed from the fear of hounds, and for want of hearing, they grow fat before others of their kind.

It is generally believed, that a hare naturally knows the change of weather from one twenty-four hours to another.

When ſhe goes to her form, ſhe will ſuffer the dew to touch her as little as ſhe can, but takes the highways and beaten paths; again when ſhe riſes out of her form, if ſhe couches her ears and ſcut, and runs not very faſt at firſt, it is an infallible ſign that ſhe is old and crafty.

They go to buck commonly in January, February, and March, and ſometimes all the warm months; ſometimes ſeeking the buck at ſeven or eight miles diſtant from the place they uſually ſit at, following the highways, &c.

To diſtinguiſh a male hare from the female, you may know him as you hunt him into his form, by his beating the hard highways: he alſo feeds farther out in the plains, and makes his doublings and croſſings much wider, and of greater compaſs than the female doth; whereas the female will keep cloſe by ſome covert ſide, turning and winding in the buſhes like a coney; and if ſhe goes to relief in the corn fields, ſhe ſeldom croſſes over the furrow, but follows them along, ſtaying upon the thickeſt tufts of corn to feed.

You may likewiſe know a buck at his riſing out of his form, by his hinder parts, which are more upon the whitiſh; and his ſhoulders, before he riſes, will be redder than the doe's, having ſome looſe long hairs growing on them.

Again, his head is ſhorter and better truſſed, his hairs about his lips longer, and his ears ſhorter and more grey: the hair upon the female's chin are of a blackiſh grey.

And beſides, when hounds hunt a female hare, ſhe will uſe more croſſing and doubling, ſeldom making out endways before the hounds: whereas the male acts contrarily, for having once made a turn or two about his form, then farewel hounds, for he will frequently lead them five or ſix miles before ever he will turn his head.

When you ſee that your hounds have found where a hare hath paſſed to relief upon the highway ſide, and hath much doubled and croſſed upon dry places, and never much broken out nor relieved in the corn, it is a ſign ſhe is but lately come thither, and then commonly ſhe will ſtay upon ſome high place to look about her, and to chuſe out a place to form in, which ſhe will be loth to part with.

The craft and ſubtilty of a HARE.

As of all chaſes the hare makes the greateſt paſtime and pleaſure, ſo it is a great delight and ſatisfaction to ſee the craft of this ſmall animal for her ſelf-preſervation.

And the better to underſtand them, conſider what weather it is; if it is rainy, then the hare will hold the high-

ways

ways more than at any other time, and if ſhe come to the ſide of any young grove or ſpring, ſhe will ſcarcely enter, but ſquat down by the ſide of it till the hounds have overſhot her, and then ſhe will return the very ſame way ſhe came, to the place from whence ſhe was ſtarted, and will not go by the way into any covert, for fear of the wet and dew that hangs upon the boughs.

In this caſe the huntſman ought to ſtay an hundred paces before he comes to the wood-ſide, by which means he will perceive whether ſhe returned as aforeſaid, which if ſhe do, he muſt halloo in the hounds, and call them back, and that preſently, that the hounds may not think it the counter ſhe came firſt.

The next thing that is to be obſerved, is the place where the hare ſits, and upon what wind ſhe makes her form, either upon the north or ſouth wind; ſhe will not willingly run into the wind, but run up on a ſide, or down the wind; but if ſhe form in the water, it is a ſign ſhe is foul and meaſled: if you hunt ſuch a one, have a ſpecial regard all the day to the brook-ſides, for there, and near plaſhes, ſhe will make all her croſſings, doublings, &c.

Some hares have been ſo crafty, that as ſoon as they have heard the ſound of the horn, they would inſtantly ſtart out of their form, though it was the diſtance of a quarter of a mile, and go and ſwim in ſome pool, and reſt upon ſome ruſh bed in the midſt of it, and would not ſtir from thence till they have heard the horn again, and then have ſtarted out again, ſwimming to land, and have ſtood up before the hounds four hours before they could kill them, ſwimming and uſing all ſubtilties and croſſings in the water.

Nay, ſuch is the natural craft and ſubtilty of a hare, that ſometimes after ſhe has been hunted three hours, ſhe will ſtart a freſh hare, and ſquat into the ſame form.

Others having been hunted a conſiderable time, will creep under the door of a ſheep cote, and there hide themſelves among the ſheep, or when they have been hard hunted, will run in among a flock of ſheep, and will by no means be gotten out from among them, till the hounds are coupled up and the ſheep driven into their pens.

Some

Some of them (and that ſeems ſomewhat ſtrange) will take the ground like a coney, and that is called going to the vault.

Some hares will go up on one ſide of the hedge and come down the other, the thickneſs of the hedge being the only diſtance between the courſes.

A hare that has been ſorely hunted, has got upon a quick-ſet hedge, and ran a good way upon the top thereof, and then leaped off upon the ground.

And they will frequently betake themſelves to furz-buſhes, and will leap from the one to the other, whereby the hounds are frequently in default.

Some affirm that a hare, after ſhe has been hunted two hours or more, has at length, to ſave herſelf, got upon an old wall, ſix feet high from the ground, and hid herſelf in a hole that was made for ſcaffolding; and that ſome hares have ſwam over the rivers Trent and Severn.

A hare is ſuppoſed not to live above ſeven years at the moſt, eſpecially the bucks, and if a buck and a doe ſhall keep one quarter together, they will never ſuffer any ſtrange hare to ſit with him; and therefore it is ſaid by way of proverb, "the more you hunt, the more hares you ſhall have;" becauſe when you have killed one hare, another will come and poſſeſs his form.

A hare hath a greater ſcent, and is more eagerly hunted by the hounds, when ſhe feeds and relieves upon green corn, than at any other time in the year; and yet there are ſome hares that naturally give a greater ſcent than others, as the large wood hares, and ſuch as are foul and meaſled keeping near to the waters: but the ſmall red hare, which is not much bigger than a coney, is neither of ſo ſtrong a ſcent, nor ſo eagerly hunted.

The females are more crafty and politic than the males, they double, and turn ſhorter than they, which is unpleaſant to the hounds; for it is troubleſome to them to turn ſo often, delighting more in an end-way chace, running with all their force: for thoſe hares which double and croſs ſo often, it is requiſite at default, to caſt the greater compaſs about, when you beat to make it out; for ſo you will

will find all her ſubtilties, and yet need not ſtick upon any of them, but only where ſhe went on forward: by this means you will abate her force, and compel her to need doubling and croſſing.

How to enter Hounds to a HARE.

Let the Huntſman be ſure in the firſt place to make them very well acquainted with himſelf and his voice, and let them underſtand the horn, which he ſhould never blow but when there is good cauſe for it.

When you enter a young kennel of hounds, have a ſpecial regard to the country where you make the firſt quarry, for ſo they are like to ſucceed accordingly; ſince their being entered firſt in a plain and champaign country, will make them ever after delight more to hunt therein than elſewhere; and it is the ſame with the coverts.

The beſt ſeaſon to enter young hounds, is in September and October, for then the weather is temperate, and neither too hot nor too cold; and this is the ſeaſon to find young hares that have never been hunted, which are ſilly, and ignorant of the politic croſſings, doublings, &c. of their ſires, running commonly end-ways, frequently ſquatting, and as often ſtarting; by which encouragement the hounds are the better entered.

Some hares hold the high-beaten ways only, where the hounds can have no ſcent; therefore when the huntſmen finds his hounds at a default in the highway, let him hunt on until he find where the hare hath broken from the highway, or hath found ſome dale or freſh place where the hounds may recover ſcent, looking narrowly on the ground as he goes, to ſee to find the footing or pricking of the hare.

There are other places wherein a hound can find no ſcent; and that is, in fat and rotten ground, which ſtick to the feet of the hare, and this is called carrying, and ſo of conſequence ſhe leaves no ſcent behind her.

There are alſo certain months in the year in which a hound can find no ſcent, and that is in the ſpring-time, by reaſon of the fragrant ſcent of flowers, and the like.

Bu

But avoid hunting in hard frosty weather as much as you can, for that will be apt to surbate or founder your hounds, and cause them to lose their claws; besides, at that time a hare runs better than at other times, the soles of her feet being hairy.

What time of the year is best for HARE *hunting; how to find her, start her, and chase her.*

The best time to begin hare hunting, is about the middle of September, and to end towards the latter end of February, lest you destroy the early brood of leverets.

And besides, when the winter comes on, the moistness and coolness of the earth increases, which is agreeable to the nature of the hounds, and very acceptable, they not liking extremes either of hot or cold weather.

Those hounds that are two years old and upwards, may be exercised three times a week; and the hunting so often will do them good, provided they be well fed; and they may be kept the greatest part of the day, both to try their stoutness, and to make them stout.

If any hound shall have found the trail of a hare, when she hath relieved that night, the huntsman ought not to be too hasty, but let the hounds make it themselves; and when he perceives that they begin to draw in together, and to call on freshly, then he ought to encourage them, especially that hound which hunteth best, frequently calling him by his name.

Here you may take notice, that a hare leaveth better scent when she goes to relief than when she goeth towards her form; for when she relieves in the field, she coucheth her body low upon the ground, passing often over one piece of ground, to find where the best food lies, and thus leaveth the best scent, crossing also sometimes; besides, when she goes to her form she commonly takes the highways, doubling, crossing, and leaping as lightly as she can; in which place, the hounds can have no scent by reason of the lust, &c. and yet they will squat by the sides of highways, and therefore let the huntsman beat very well the sides of those highways.

Now

Now having found where a hare hath relieved in ſome paſture or corn-field, you muſt then conſider the ſeaſon of the year, and what weather it is; for if it be in the ſpring time or ſummer, a hare will not then ſit in buſhes, becauſe they are frequently infeſted with piſmires, ſnakes and adders, but will ſit in corn-fields and open places.

In the winter-time, they ſit near towns and villages, in tufts of thorns and brambles, eſpecially when the wind is northerly or ſoutherly.

According to the ſeaſon and nature of the place where the hare is accuſtomed to ſit, there beat with your hounds, and ſtart her; which is much better ſport than trailing of her from her relief to her form.

After the hare has been ſtarted, and is on foot, then ſtep in where you ſaw her paſs, and halloo in your hounds, until they have all undertaken it, and go on with it in full cry; then recheat to them with your horn, following fair and ſoftly at firſt, making not too much noiſe either with horn or voice; for at the firſt, hounds are apt to overſhoot the chace through too much heat.

But when they have run the ſpace of an hour, and you ſee the hounds are well in with it, and ſtick well upon it, then you may come in nearer with the hounds, becauſe by that time their heat will be cooled, and they will hunt more ſoberly.

But, above all things, mark the firſt doubling, which muſt be your direction for the whole day; for all the doublings that ſhe ſhall make afterwards will be like the former, and according to the polices that you ſhall ſee her uſe, and the place where you hunt, you muſt make your compaſſes great or little, long or ſhort, to help the defaults, always ſeeking the moiſteſt and moſt commodious places for the hounds to ſcent in.

To conclude; thoſe who delight in hunting the hare, muſt riſe early, leſt they be deprived of the ſcent of her foot-ſteps, by which means the dogs will be incapacitated to follow their game; for the nature of the ſcent is ſuch that it will not remain ſo long, but ſuddenly in a manner every hour vaniſheth away.

The laws obſerved in courſing the HARE.

1. That he that is choſen Fewterer, or that lets looſe the greyhounds, ſhall receive the greyhounds matched to run together into his leaſh as ſoon as he comes into the field, and follow next to the hare-finder, or he who is to ſtart the hare until he come unto the form, and no horſeman or footman is to go before, or on any ſide but directly behind, for the ſpace of about forty-yards.

2. You ought to courſe a hare with no more than a brace of greyhounds.

3. The hare-finder ought to give the hare three ſo-hoes before he puts her from her form or ſeat, to the end the dogs may gaze about, and attend her ſtarting.

4. They ought to have twelve ſcore yards law before the dogs are looſed, unleſs there be any danger of looſing her.

5. That dog that gives the firſt turn, if after that there be neither cote, ſlip, or wrench, he wins the wager.

6. If one dog gives the firſt turn, and the other bears the hare, he that bears the hare ſhall win the wager.

7. A go by, or bearing the hare, is accounted equivalent to two turns.

8. If neither dog turn the hare, he that leads laſt to the covert wins.

9. If one dog turn the hare, ſerves himſelf, and turns her again, it is as much as a cote, and a cote is eſteemed two turns.

10. If all the courſe be equal, he that bears the hare ſhall win; and if he be not born, the courſe ſhall be adjudged dead.

11. If a dog take fall in his courſe, and yet perform his part, he may challenge the advantage of a turn more than he gave.

12. If a dog turn the hare, ſerve himſelf, and give divers cotes, and yet in the end ſtand ſtill in the field, the other dog, if he turns home to the coverts, although he gives no turn, ſhall be adjudged to win the wager.

13. If by misfortune, a dog be rid over in his courſe the courſe is void, and to ſay the truth, he that did the miſchief ought to make reparation for the damage.

14. If a dog give the firſt and laſt turn, and there be no other advantage betwixt them, he that gives the odd turn ſhall win.

15. A cote is when the greyhound goeth end-ways by his fellow, and gives the hare a turn.

16. A cote ſerves for two turns, and two trippings or jerkins for a cote; and if ſhe turneth not quite about ſhe only wrencheth.

17. If there be no cotes given between a brace of greyhounds but that one of them ſerves the other at turning: then he that gives the hare moſt turns wins the wager: and if one gives as many turns as the other, then he that beareth the hare wins the wager.

18. Sometimes the hare doth not turn but wrench; for ſhe is not properly ſaid to turn, except ſhe turn as it were round, and two wrenches ſtand for a turn.

19. He that comes in firſt to the death of the hare, takes her up, and ſaves her from breaking, cheriſheth the dogs, and cleanſes their mouths from the wool, is adjudged to have the hare for his pains.

20. Thoſe that are judges of the leaſh, muſt give their judgment preſently before they depart out of the field.

Courſing the FOX.

IN courſing a fox, no other art is required than ſtanding cloſe, and on a clear wind on the outſide of ſome grove, where you are to expect his coming out, and then give him head enough, otherwiſe he will turn back to the covert: for the ſloweſt greyhound will be ſwift enough to overtake him; and all the hazard of this courſe is the ſpoiling your dog by the fox, which oftentimes happens; and for this reaſon, you ſhould not run any that are worth much at this chaſe: but ſuch that are hard bitten dogs that will ſeize any thing.

Fox Hunting.

The ſhape and proportion of this beaſt is ſo well known, being ſo common, that it is needleſs to deſcribe him.

His nature is in many reſpects like that of a wolf, for they bring as many cubs at a litter the one as the other; but in this they differ, the fox littering deep under the ground, but the wolf doth not.

A bitch fox is very difficult to be taken when ſhe is bragged and with cub, for then ſhe will lie near her burrow, into which ſhe runs, upon hearing the leaſt noiſe: and indeed at any time it is ſomewhat difficult; for the fox (and ſo the wolf) is a very ſubtle creature.

Fox-hunting is a very pleaſant exerciſe, for by reaſon of his ſtrong, hot ſcent, he makes an excellent cry; and as his ſcent is hotteſt at hand, ſo it dies the ſooneſt.

And beſides, he never flies far before the hounds, truſting not to his legs, ſtrength, or champagne grounds, but ſtrongeſt coverts. When he can no longer ſtand before the ground, he then taketh earth, and muſt be dug out.

If greyhounds courſe him on a plain, his laſt refuge is to piſs on his tail, and ſlap it in their faces as they come near him; and ſometimes ſquirting his thicker excrements upon them, to make them give over the courſe of purſuit.

When a bitch fox goes a clicketting and ſeeking for a dog, ſhe cries with a hollow voice, not unlike the howling of a mad dog, and in the ſame manner ſhe cries when ſhe miſſes any of her cubs; but never makes any cry at all when ſhe is killing, but defends herſelf to the laſt gaſp.

A fox will prey upon any thing he can overcome, and will feed upon any ſort of carrion: but their dainties, and the food they moſt delight in is poultry.

They are very injurious and deſtructive to coney-warrens, and will ſometimes kill hares by deceit and ſubtilty, but not by ſwift running.

The fox is taken with hounds, greyhounds, terriers, nets, and gins.

For

For HUNTING *above ground.*

To hunt a fox with hounds, you muſt draw about groves, thickets, and buſhes, near villages: for in ſuch places he lurks to prey upon poultry, &c, but if you can find one, it will be neceſſary to ſtop up his earth the night before you intend to hunt, and that about midnight, for then he goes out to prey; and this muſt be done by laying two white ſticks acroſs in his way, which will make him imagine it to be ſome gin or trap laid for him, or elſe they may be ſtopped up cloſe with black thorns and earth together.

The beſt hunting a fox above ground, is in January, February, and March, for then you ſhall beſt ſee your hounds hunting, and beſt find his earthing; and beſides, at thoſe times the fox's ſkin is beſt in ſeaſon.

Again, the hounds hunt the fox beſt in the coldeſt weather, becauſe he leaveth a very ſtrong ſcent behind him; yet in cold weather it chills faſteſt.

At firſt only caſt off your ſure finders, and as the drag mends, ſo add more as you dare truſt them; avoid caſting off too many hounds at once, becauſe woods and coverts are full of ſundry chaces, and ſo you may engage them in too many at one time.

Let ſuch as you caſt off at firſt be old ſtaunch hounds which are ſure, and if you hear ſuch a hound call on merrily, you may caſt off ſome others to him, and when they run it on the full cry, caſt off the reſt, and thus you ſhall compleat your paſtime.

The words of comfort are the ſame which are uſed in other chaſes, attended with the ſame hallooings, and other ceremonies.

The hounds ſhould be left to hill the fox themſelves, and to worry and tear him as much as they pleaſe: ſome hounds will eat him with eagerneſs.

When he is dead, hang him at the end of a pike-ſtaff, and halloo in all your hounds to bay him; but reward them not with any thing belonging to the fox; for it is not good, neither will the hounds in common eat it.

Of HUNTING *a* FOX *under ground.*

If in caſe a fox does ſo far eſcape as to earth, countrymen muſt be got together with ſhovels, ſpades, mattocks, pickaxes, &c. to dig him out, if they think the earth not too great.

They make their earths as near as they can in ground that is hard to dig, as in clay, ſtoney ground, or amongſt the roots of trees; and their earths have commonly but one hole; and that is ſtraight a long way in before you come at their couch.

Sometimes craftily they take poſſeſſion of a badger's old burrow, which hath a variety of chambers, holes and angles.

Now to facilitate this way of hunting the fox: the huntſman muſt be provided with one or two terriers to put into the earth after him, that is to fix him in an angle: for the earth often conſiſts of many angles: the uſe of the terrier is to know where he lies, for as ſoon as he finds him he continues baying or barking, ſo that which way the noiſe is heard that way dig to him.

However, I ſhall here add, that in the firſt place you muſt have ſuch as are able to dig, ſo your terriers muſt be garniſhed with bells hung in collars, to make the fox bolt the ſooner; beſides, the collars will be ſome defence to the terriers.

The inſtruments to dig withal are theſe; a ſharp pointed ſpade, which ſerves to begin the trench, where the ground is hardeſt, as broader tools will not ſo well enter; the round hollowed ſpade, which is uſeful to dig among roots, having very ſharp edges; the broad flat ſpade to dig withal, when the trench has been pretty well opened, and the ground ſofter; mattocks and pickaxes to dig in hard ground, where a ſpade will do but little ſervice; the coal-rake to cleanſe the hole, and to keep it from ſtopping up; clamps, wherewith you may take either fox or badger out alive, to make ſport with afterwards.

And

And it would be very convenient to have a pail of water to refreſh your terriers with, after they are come out of the earth to take breath.

Of DOGS.

AS there is no country in the world where there is not plenty of dogs, ſo no animals can boaſt of a greater variety, both in kind and ſhape; ſome being for buck, others for bear, bull, boar, and ſome for hare, coney and hedge-hog, while others are for other uſes, according to their various natures, properties and kinds: neither are the uſes and kinds of them ſo general, but their bringing up is alſo as eaſy, there being no great regard to be had as to their food, for they will eat any thing but the fleſh of their own ſpecies, which cannot be ſo dreſſed by the art of man, but they will find out by their ſmelling, and ſo avoid it.

A black hound is not to be deſpiſed, eſpecially if marked with white, and not red ſpots; ſeeing this whiteneſs proceeds from a flegmatic conſtitution, which hinders him from forgetting the leſſon he is taught, and makes him obedient; whereas dogs that have red ſpots are for the moſt part very fiery, and hard to be managed, by reaſon of the bilious humour that prevails, and cauſes this irregularity within them; and therefore a black dog with white ſpots is valuable, being uſually hardy enough, will hunt well, is ſtrong and ſwift, and holds out a long time: he will not forſake the chace, and when you are beating the water for ſport, he will not be frighted at it; and laſtly, he is the more eſteemed, becauſe thoſe diſtempers incident to dogs, ſeldom befal him.

There are ſome grey coloured dogs that are good, and others you ought not to meddle with; that is, mongrels, which come from a hound bitch that has been lined by a dog of another kind, or from a bitch of another kind, that has been lined by a hound: hounds cannot be good if they do not entirely retain the nature that is peculiar to

them; and when they do, grey dogs are to be coveted, becauſe they are cunning, never faulter, and grow not diſcouraged in the queſt.

Yellow dogs, are thoſe which have red ſpots, inclining to brown; and as choler is the moſt predominant humour in this animal, ſo he is found to be of a giddy nature, and impatient, when the beaſt he follows makes turns, ſeeing he ſtill runs forwards to find him, which is a great fault; and therefore they are ſeldom made uſe of to hunt any other than the wolf, or ſuch black beaſts as are rarely inclined to turnings: they are too ſwift, open but very little, eſpecially in very hot weather; they are naturally impatient, and therefore hard to be taught, as they are uneaſy under correction.

Oppoſite to the deep mouthed or ſouthern hound, are the long and ſlender hounds, called the fleet, or northern hound; which are very ſwift, as not being of ſo heavy a body, nor having ſo large ears: theſe will exerciſe your horſes, and try their ſtrength; they are proper for open, level, and champagne countries, where they may run in view, and full ſpeed; for they will hunt more by the eye than by the noſe, and will run down a hare in an hour, and ſometimes ſooner: but the fox will exerciſe them longer and better.

Between theſe two extremes there are a middle ſort of dogs, which partake of both their qualities as to ſtrength and ſwiftneſs, in a reaſonable proportion: they are generally bred by croſſing the ſtrains, and are excellent in ſuch countries as are mixed, viz. ſome mountains, ſome incloſures, ſome plains and ſome woodlands; for they will go through thick and thin, neither need they be helped over hedges, as the huntſmen are often forced to do by others.

A true, right ſhaped, deep-mouthed hound, ſhould have a round, thick head, wide noſtrils, open and wide upwards, his ears large and thin, hanging lower than his chops, the fleeces of his upper lip ſhould be longer than thoſe of his nether chops, and chime of his back great and thick, ſtrait and long, and rather bending out than inclining in; his thighs well truſſed, his haunches large, his

fillets round and large, his tail or ſtern ſtrong ſet on, waxing taperwiſe towards the top, his hair under his belly rough and long, his legs large and lean, his feet dry and hard, with ſtrong claws and high knuckles: in the whole, he ought to be of ſo juſt a ſymmetry, that when he ſtands level, you may not diſcern which is higheſt, his fore or hinder parts.

For the northern or fleet hound, his head and noſe ought to be ſlender and longer, his back broad, his belly gaunt, his joints long, and his ears thicker and ſhorter; in a word, he is in all parts ſlender made, and framed after the mould of a greyhound.

By croſſing thoſe breeds, as before obſerved, you may bring your kennel to ſuch a compoſition as you think fit, every man's fancy being to be preferred; and it is a well known ſaying,

So many men, ſo many minds;
So many hounds, ſo many kinds.

Though I ſhall refer the reader to the diſeaſes incident to dogs, under their reſpective heads, yet their being bitten or ſtung by ſome venomous creatures, and others being not ſo eaſily reducible to an article by itſelf, it ſhall be added here: and when they are ſtung by ſome adder, or other inſect of that nature, you muſt take an handful of the herb croſs-wort, gentian, and as much rue, the ſame quantity of Spaniſh pepper, thin broth, ends of broom and mint, of all an equal quantity; when this is done, take ſome white wine, and make a decoction of the whole, letting it boil for an hour in a pot; then ſtrain the whole, into which put an ounce of diſſolved treacle, and let the dog ſwallow it, and obſerve to waſh the bite therewith: if a dog is bitten by a fox, anoint it with oil wherein you have boiled ſome rue and worms.

Of DOG-MADNESS.

Dog madneſs is a diſtemper very common among all ſorts of dogs; eaſy to be prevented, but hard to be cured: there

there are no leſs than ſeven ſorts of madneſs, amongſt which ſome are eſteemed incurable.

The ſymptoms of this diſeaſe are many, and eaſily diſcerned; when any dog ſeparates himſelf contrary to his former uſe, become melancholy, or droops his head, forbears eating, and as he runs ſnatches at every thing; if he often looks upwards, and that his ſtern at his ſetting on be a little erect, and the reſt hanging down: if his eyes be red, his breath ſtrong, his voice hoarſe, and that he drivels and foams at the mouth, you may be aſſured he has this diſtemper.

The ſeven ſorts of madneſs are as follow: of which the two firſt are incurable, viz. the hot burning madneſs, and running madneſs; they are both very dangerous; for all things they bite and draw blood from, will have the ſame diſtemper; they generally ſeize on all they meet with, but chiefly on dogs: their pain is ſo great, it ſoon kills them. The five curable madneſſes are:

Sleeping madneſs, ſo called from the dog's great drowſineſs, and almoſt continual ſleeping; and this is cauſed by the little worms that breed in the mouth of the ſtomach, from corrupt humours, vapours, and fumes which aſcend to his head: for cure of which, take ſix ounces of the juice of wormwood, two ounces of the powder of hartſhorn burnt, and two drachms of agaric; mix all theſe together in a little white wine, and give it the dog to drink in a drenching horn.

Dumb madneſs lies alſo in the blood, and cauſes the dog not to feed, but to hold his mouth always wide open, frequently putting his feet to his mouth, as if he had a bone in his throat: to cure this, take the juice of black hellebore, the juice of ſpatula putrida, and of rue, of each four ounces: ſtrain them well, and put thereto two drachms of unprepared ſcammony, and being mixed well together, put it down the dog's throat with a drenching horn, keeping his head up for ſome time, leſt he caſt it out again; then bleed him in the mouth, by cutting two or three veins in his gums.

Lank

Lank madneſs is ſo called, by reaſon of the dog's leanneſs and pining away; for cure, give them a purge as before directed, and alſo bleed them: but ſome ſay there is no cure for it.

Rheumatic, or ſlavering madneſs, occaſions the dog's head to ſwell, his eyes to look yellow, and he will be always ſlavering and drivelling at the mouth; to cure which, take four ounces of the powder of the roots of polypody of the oak, ſix ounces of the juice of fennel roots, with the like quantity of the roots of miſletoe, and four ounces of the juice of ivy: boil all theſe together in white wine, and give it to the dog as hot as he can drink it, in a drenching horn.

Falling madneſs is ſo termed becauſe it lies in the dog's head, and makes them reel as they go, and to fall down: for cure, take four ounces of the juice of briony, and the ſame quantity of the juice of peony, with four drachms of ſtaveſacre pulverized; mix theſe together, and give it to the dog in a drenching horn; alſo let him blood in the ears, and in the two veins that come down his ſhoulders; and indeed bleeding is neceſſary for all ſorts of madneſs in dogs.

To prevent dogs from being mad that are bitten by mad dogs, that is done by bathing them; in order to which take a barrel or bucking tub full of water, into which put about a buſhel and a half of ſoot, which muſt be ſtirred well, that it may be diſſolved; then put in the dog that is bitten, and plunge him over head and ears ſeven or eight times therein, and it will prevent his being mad; but he ſhould alſo be blooded.

When dogs happen to be bit as aforeſaid, there is nothing better than their licking the place with their own tongues, if they can reach it; if not, then let it be waſhed with butter and vinegar made lukewarm, and let it afterwards be anointed with Venice turpentine: it is alſo good to piſs upon the wound; but above all, take the juice of the ſtalks of ſtrong tobacco, boiled in water, bathe the place therewith, alſo waſh him in ſea water, or water artificially made ſalt: give him likewiſe a little mithridate inwardly

inwardly in two or three ſpoonfuls of ſack, and ſo keep him apart; and if you find him, after ſome time, ſtill to droop, the beſt way is to hang him.

It may not be amiſs to add what a late author adviſes every one who keeps a dog, which is to have him wormed, and is a thing of little trouble and charge, and what he believes would prevent their being mad; and if they are, he is of opinion that it prevents their biting any other creature; for he aſſerts he had three dogs bit by mad dogs, at three ſeveral times, that were wormed, and though they died mad, yet they did not bite, nor do any miſchief to any thing he had; and having a mind to make a full experiment of it, he ſhut one of them up in a kennel, and put to him a dog he did not value: that the mad dog would often run at the other dog to bite him; but he found his tongue ſo much ſwelled in his mouth, that he could not make his teeth meet; that that dog, though he kept him with the mad dog till he died, yet he did not ail any thing, though he kept him two years afterwards, and gave him no remedies to prevent any harm, which might come from the biting of the mad dog.

The beſt remedy is this; take white hellebore and grate it with a grater to powder, which muſt be mixed with butter, and given to the dog: the doſe muſt be proportioned to the ſize of the dog; to a very ſmall lap-dog you may give three grains, to a large maſtiff ſixteen grains, and ſo in proportion to other ſizes. He adds, that the beſt way is, to give him a ſmall quantity at firſt, that it may be increaſed as it is found to work, or not to work; but that as it is a ſtrong vomit, and will make the dogs ſick for a little time, ſo they muſt be kept warm that day it is given them, and the next night, and they muſt not have cold water; but when it has done working, towards the afternoon give them ſome warm broth, and the next morning give them the ſame before you let them out of the houſe or kennel.

The ſame author ſays this is an extraordinary remedy for the mange; that he never knew three doſes fail of curing any dog that had it, except he had a ſurfeit with it; which if he had, let him blood alſo, and anoint him two or three times

times over with gunpowder and ſoap, beat it up together and it will cure him.

The choice of a DOG *and* BITCH *for breeding good* WHELPS.

The bitch ought to be one of a good kind, being ſtrong and well-proportioned in all parts, having her ribs and flanks great and large.

Let the dog that lines her be of a good fair breed; and let him be young, if you intend to have light and hot hounds; for if the dog be old, the whelps will participate of his dull and heavy nature.

If your bitch do not grow proud of her own accord ſo ſoon as you would have her, you may make her ſo by giving her the following broth:

Boil two heads of garlick, half a caſtor's ſtone, the juice of creſſes, and about twelve Spaniſh flies, in a pipkin that holds a pint, together with ſome mutton, and make broth of it; and give of this to the bitch two or three times, and ſhe will not fail to grow proud, and the ſame pottage given to the dog, will make him inclinable to copulation.

After your bitch has been lined and is with puppy, you muſt not let her hunt, for that will be the way to make her caſt her whelps; but let her walk up and down unconfined in the houſe and court: never locking her up in her kennel: for ſhe is then impatient of food, and therefore you muſt make her ſome hot broth once a day.

If you would ſpay your bitch, it muſt be done before ſhe has ever had a litter of whelps; and in ſpaying her take not away all the roots and ſtrings of the veins; for if you do, it will prejudice her reins, and hinder her ſwiftneſs ever after: but by leaving ſome behind, it will make her much the ſtronger, and more hardy.

But by no means do not ſpay her while ſhe is proud, for that will endanger her life: but you may do it fifteen days after; but the beſt time of all is when the whelps are ſhaped within her.

Of

Of the WATER *Spaniel; how to train, and order him for the game in fowling.*

The water dog is of ſuch general uſe, and ſo common amongſt us, that there needs no great deſcription of him; but there are great differences amongſt them, as well in proportion as otherwiſe.

As to colour, the curious will make a difference, as the black to be the beſt and hardieſt; the ſpotted or pied, quickeſt of ſcent, and the liver-hewed quickeſt in ſwimming; but, in truth, colour is nothing material, for without doubt there are good and bad of all colours, and that by experience is found: but his breeding, training up, and coming of a good kind, are the chief things; yet it muſt be confeſſed, that as to handſomeneſs, the colour is to be regarded, ſo is the proportion as to his ſhape; and then his head ſhould be round, with curled hair, his ears broad and hanging, his eyes full and lively, his noſe ſhort, his lips like unto a hound's, his neck thick and ſhort, his ſhoulders broad, his legs ſtraight, his chine ſquare, his ribs with a compaſs, his buttocks round, his thighs brawny, his belly gaunt, his paſterns ſtrong and dew-clawed, and his fore-feet long and round, with his hair in general long and curled, not looſe and ſhagged; for the firſt ſheweth hardineſs and ſtrength to endure the water, and the other much tenderneſs and weakneſs.

Now for the training and bringing him up; you can't begin too early to teach him obedience, when he can but lap, for that is the principal thing to be learned; for being made to obey, he is then ready to do your commands; therefore ſo ſoon as he can lap, teach him to couch and lie cloſe, not daring to ſtir from that poſture without your commands; and the better to effect this, always cheriſh him when he does your will, and correct him when he diſobeys; and be ſure to obſerve, that in the firſt teaching him you never let him eat any thing, but when he does ſomething to deſerve it, that he may thereby know, that food is a thing that cometh not by chance, or by a liberal hand,

hand, but only for a reward for well-doing; and this will make him not only willing to learn, but apt to remember what he is taught without blows; and to that end, have no more teachers than one, for variety breed confuſion, as teaching divers ways, ſo that he can learn no way well.

Another thing is, you muſt be very conſtant to the words of direction by which you teach him, chuſing ſuch as are moſt pertinent to that purpoſe; and thoſe words that you firſt uſe, do not alter, for dogs take notice of the ſound, not of the Engliſh, ſo that the leaſt alteration puts them to a ſtand: For example, if you teach him to couch at the word down, this will be a known command unto him; and I am of opinion, that to uſe more words than is neceſſary, for one and the ſame thing, is to overload his memory, and cauſe forgetfulneſs in him.

And this method ſhould be obſerved as to the ſetting-dog.

You muſt teach him alſo to know the word of correction, and reprehenſion, for no leſſen can be taught without a fault; and no fault ſhould eſcape without reprehenſion, or at the leaſt of chiding, and in this be conſtant to a word; as, Go too, ſirrah, raſcal, or the like, which at firſt ſhould be uſed with a laſh or jerk, to make him know that it is a word of wrath or anger; neither muſt ſuch words proceed from you lovingly, or gently, but with paſſion and roughneſs of voice, together with fierceneſs of looks, that the whelp may tremble when he hears you ſpeak thus. You muſt have certain words of cheriſhing when he hath done well, that he may be thereby encouraged, as; That's a good boy, well done, or the like, uſing therewith chearfulneſs of ſpeech, without actions of favour, as ſpitting in his mouth, clapping him on his back, and the like; you muſt alſo uſe ſome words of advice, that when he is at his ſport, he may the better perform the ſame, and they may ſerve to ſpur or put him forward with more chearfulneſs of ſpirit, as, Take heed, hem, or the like.

When your whelp is brought up to underſtand theſe ſeveral words, viz. of inſtruction, correction, cheriſhing, and

advice, and that he will couch and lie down at your feet, how, when, and as long as you pleaſe, and that with a word or look only; then teach him to lead you in a line or collar, and to follow at your heels, without coming too cloſe or hanging back; the meaning of this is, to teach him to be more familiar and obedient unto you.

Having brought him to perfect obedience, to follow you in a line, the next thing muſt be, to make him follow you in like manner looſe, without a line, and always to be at your heels, and to lie down by you without your leave to the contrary; this is as neceſſary a leſſon as can be taught him, for he muſt be ſo but upon ſpecial occaſion, as to raiſe up fowl from their haunts, and find out, and bring what you have ſhot or killed unto you.

The next leſſon to learn him is, to fetch and carry any thing that you ſhall command him; and this you may begin to teach him by the way of ſport, as by taking your glove and ſhaking over his head, making him to catch at it, and to play with it; and ſometimes let him hold it in his mouth, and ſtrive to pull it from you; then caſt it a little way from you, and let him muzzle it on the ground; then take it from him gently, giving him cheriſhing, as, That's a good boy, Well done, or the like.

After you have ſpent ſome time in this, and that you find him to take it from the ground, and to hold it in his mouth, as it were from you; then begin to caſt it further and further, giving him your command, ſaying, Fetch, or bring it, ſirrah; and if he brings it, then cheriſh and reward him with meat, or a cruſt of bread, and let him have no food, but what he deſerves by doing his leſſon, and by your continual practice he will fetch your glove, or any thing elſe you throw out for him.

If at any time he offers to run away with your glove, or toſs it up and down wantonly, not bringing it to you orderly, then firſt give him your word of inſtruction.

And if that will not do, your word of correction; and if neither avail, then proceed to blows, and give him nothing to eat as a reward, until he doth as you command.

When

When by this means you have made him perfect, and that he will fetch a glove readily wherever you throw it, bringing it to you, altho' in company, and all call him to come to them; you muſt then make much of him, and reward him very well: and having trained him to fetch your glove, then proceed to teach him to fetch whatſoever you throw from you, as ſtaves, ſticks, ſtones, money, or any thing that is portable.

As alſo teach him to carry live or dead fowl, and with a tender mouth, that when you have occaſion to uſe him for the ſport, he may bring them to yon without tearing, or ſo much as bruiſing a feather.

As you walk with him in the fields, drop ſomething behind you unknown to him; and being gone a little way, ſend him back to ſeek it, by ſaying, Back, ſirrah, I have loſt; and if at firſt he ſtand amazed, urge him ſtill, and ceaſe not by pointing to him the way you would have him go, until by ſeeking out he finds that which you ſo dropped; which make him take up, by ſaying, That's it, and to bring it after you; then drop it again, going twice as far as formerly, cauſing him to go back to ſeek it, not leaving him till you have made him find it, and bring it to you, for which cheriſh and reward him; and where he fails, there chaſtiſe or chide him, ſometimes with angry words, other times with blows, and ſometimes keep him faſting, according to his offence; and thus do until he will hunt the way back which you went, were it above a mile.

But if your dog happens to bring you a wrong thing, you muſt receive it from him, and cheriſh him; but ſend him back preſently again, ſaying, Away again, or, I have loſt more, and be not ſatisfied until he hath brought you the right thing; and if he return without any thing, then be ſure both to chide and beat him for his ſloth and negligence.

When he will thus fetch, carry, and find out things thus loſt, then train him to hunting, beginning firſt with tame fowl, which by your help (when they dive, or otherwiſe)

wiſe) you may with little labour make him take, which will hearten and encourage him to the ſport.

After this make him uſe all his cunning without your aſſiſtance, whether he gets or loſes the game, and according to his deſert, reward or correct him: by this practice he will become maſter of his game; and be ſure always, that he brings his game (when taken) to the ſhore unto you, without hurting it.

Your next buſineſs ſhall be, to train him unto your fowling-piece, cauſing him to follow, as it were, ſtep by ſtep behind you, and under the covert of your ſhadow until you have ſhot, or elſe couch, or lie cloſe, where you appoint him, by ſaying, Lie cloſe, until you have ſhot; and then upon the leaſt notice or beckoning, ſpeedily to come and do what you command.

Some are ſo expert, as to have their eyes upon the game, and upon the gun's going off immediately run to fetch it; but 'tis adjudged not ſo good, for the place ſhould not be a warning to him, but your command; but if you give him his liberty at your ſhooting, when you come againſt your nets or lime-twigs, as ſoon as he ſeeth the fowl entangled, and flutter their wings, he will preſently ruſh in amongſt them, and will occaſion the ſpoiling your lime rods, and the tearing or entangling your nets.

The ſpaniel is of great uſe in the moulting time, that is when the wild fowl caſt their feathers, and can't fly, but lie lurking about in ſecret places; which ſeaſon is between ſummer and autumn: at which time take your dog into ſuch places where they reſort, cauſing him to hunt about; and when he finds them, they are eaſily taken, becauſe they can't fly.

In fenny countries, where fowl do much reſort, great quantities may be taken, driving them into places where you muſt have nets ready fixed, as in narrow creeks, or the like.

Theſe fowl, if taken and kept tame, and fed with beaſts livers, whey, curds, barley, paſte, ſcalded bran, and the like, are excellent food, far ſurpaſſing thoſe abſolutely wild, both in plumpneſs, fatneſs of body, and alſo for ſweetneſs of taſte.

Of

Of LURCHERS.

Lurchers are a kind of hunting dogs much like a mongrel greyhound, with pricked ears, and ſhagged coat, and generally of a yellowiſh white colour: they are very ſwift runners, ſo that if they get between the burrows and the conies, they ſeldom miſs; and this is their common practice in hunting; yet they uſe other ſubtilties, as the tumbler does, ſome of them bringing in their game, and thoſe are the beſt. It is alſo obſervable that a lurcher will run down a hare at a ſtretch.

The TUMBLER.

So called becauſe in hunting they turn and tumble, winding their bodies about circularly, and then fiercely and violently venturing on the beaſt, do ſuddenly gripe at the very entrance or mouth of their holes and receptacles, before they can make any recovery of ſelf ſecurity.

This dog uſeth alſo another craft and ſubtilty; namely, when he runneth into a warren, or fetcheth a courſe about a coney-burrow, he hunts not after them, nor does any way affright them; he ſhews no ſpite againſt them, but diſſembling friendſhip, and pretending favour, paſſes by with quietneſs and ſilence, marking their holes diligently, wherein he is ſeldom deceived.

When he comes to a place where there is a certainty of conies, he coucheth down cloſe with his belly to the ground, provided always that by his ſkill and policy, that the wind be againſt him in that enterprize, and the conies diſcover him not where he lurketh, by which means he gets the ſcent of the conies, which is carried to him by the wind and air, either going to their holes or coming out, either paſſing this way or running that way, and by his circumſpection ſo orders his matters, that the ſilly coney is debarred quite from his hole (which is the haven of his hope, and harbour of his ſafety) and fraudulently circumvented and taken before he can reach his hole.

Thus having caught his prey, he immediately carries it to his maſter, who waits for the return of his dog in ſome convenient lurking place.

Theſe dogs are ſomewhat leſſer than the hounds, being lanker, leaner, and ſomewhat prick-eared.

By the form and faſhion of their bodies, they might be called mungrel greyhounds, if they were ſomewhat bigger.

But though they do not equal the greyhound in ſize, yet they will, in the compaſs of one day, kill as many conies as ſhall be a ſufficient load for a horſe; for craft and ſubtilty are the inſtruments whereby they make this ſpoil.

A Setting-Dog.

A dog trained up to the ſetting of partridges, &c, from a whelp, till he comes to perfection; you muſt pitch upon one that has a perfect and good ſcent, and is naturally addicted to the hunting of fowl, and this dog may be either a land-ſpaniel, water-ſpaniel, or a mungrel between both, or indeed the ſhallow-flew'd, hound, tumbler, lurcher, or ſmall baſtard-maſtiff, but none is better than the land-ſpaniel; he ſhould be of a good nimble ſize, rather ſmall than thick, and of a courageous mettle, which, though not to be diſcerned being very young, yet you may very well know it from a right breed, which have been known to be ſtrong, luſty, and nimble rangers, of active feet, wanton tails, and buſy noſtrils.

Having made choice of a dog, begin to inſtruct him at four months old, or ſix at the fartheſt, and the firſt thing you ſhould do, is to make him loving to, and familiar with you; the better to effect this, let him receive his food, as much as can be, from no other hand but your own, and correct him rather with words than blows. When he is ſo far trained as that he will follow none but yourſelf, and can diſtinguiſh your frowns from your ſmiles, and ſmooth words from rough, teach him to couch and lie cloſe to the ground, firſt by laying him often on the ground, and crying lie cloſe, and then rewarding or chaſtizing him, according as he deſerves; in the next place teach him to come creeping to you, and if he offers to raiſe his body or head, you muſt not only thruſt the riſing part down, but threaten him with an angry voice, which if he ſeems to

ſlight,

ſlight, give him a ſmall jerk or two with a whipcord laſh, and often renew his leſſon, till he becomes very perfect in them.

Then teach him to lead in a ſtring or line, and to follow you cloſe at your heels, without trouble or ſtraining his collar: after he has learned theſe things, take him into the fields, and give him his liberty to range, but ſtill in obedience to your command, and if he commits a fault, give him due correction.

As ſoon as you ſee him come upon the haunt of any partridge (which may be known by his greater eagerneſs in hunting, as alſo by a kind of whimpering and whining voice, being very deſirous to open, but not daring) you ought then to ſpeak to him, bidding him to take heed, or the like; but yet, if he either ruſh in or ſpring the partridge, or open, and ſo the partridge eſcapes, then he ought to be ſeverely corrected, and caſt him off again, and let him hunt in ſome place where you know a covey lies, and ſee whether he has mended his fault; and if you catch any with your nets, give him the heads, necks and pinions for his encouragement.

Of GREYHOUNDS.

The beſt ſort of them has a long body, ſtrong and pretty large; a neat ſharp head, ſparkling eyes, a long mouth and ſharp teeth; little ears with thin griſtles, a ſtrait, broad and ſtrong breaſt, his fore legs ſtrait and ſhort, his hind legs long and ſtrait, broad ſhoulders, round ribs, fleſhy buttocks, but not fat, a long tail, and ſtrong and full ſinews.

Of this kind, thoſe are always fitteſt to be choſen among the whelps that weigh lighteſt, for they will be ſooner at the game, and ſo hang upon it, hindering it's ſwiftneſs, till the heavier and ſtrong hounds come to offer their aſſiſtance; and therefore, beſides what has been already ſaid:

'Tis requiſite for a greyhound to have large ſides, and and a broad midriff, ſo that he may take his breath in and out more eaſily: his belly ſhould alſo be ſmall, (which otherwiſe would obſtruct the ſwiftneſs of his courſe) his legs

legs long, and his hairs thin and ſoft: the Huntſman is to lead theſe hounds on his left hand, if he is on foot, and on the right if on horſeback.

The beſt time to try to train and lead them to their game, is at twelve months old, tho' ſome begin ſooner with them; with the males at ten months, and the females at eight months old, which laſt are generally more ſwift than the dogs: they muſt alſo be kept in a ſlip while abroad, till they can ſee their courſe; neither ſhould you run a young dog till the game has been on foot a conſiderable time, leſt being over greedy of the prey he ſtrains his limbs too much.

It is a received opinion, that a greyhound bitch will in common beat a greyhound dog, by reaſon that ſhe excels him in nimbleneſs; but if it be conſidered that the dog is longer and ſtronger, that opinion will ſeem to be a vulgar error.

Here you may take notice as to the breeding of greyhounds, that the beſt dog upon an indifferent bitch, will not get ſo good a whelp as an indifferent dog upon a good bitch.

And obſerve this in general as to breeding; let the dogs and bitches, as near as you can, be of an equal age, not exceeding four years old; however, to breed with a young dog and an old bitch, may be the means of producing excellent whelps, the goodneſs of which you may know by their ſhapes, in the following manner.

In the breeding of greyhounds, in the firſt place.

The dieting of Greyhounds conſiſts in theſe four things, food, exerciſe, airing, and kenneling.

The general food of a greyhound ought to be chippings, cruſts of bread, ſoft bones and griſtles, the chippings ſcalded in beef, mutton, veal or veniſon broth: and when it is indifferent cool, then make your bread only float in good milk, and give it your greyhounds morning and evening, and this will keep them in a good ſtate of body.

But if your dog be poor, ſickly and weak, then take ſheeps heads, wool and all, clean waſhed, and having broken them to pieces, put them into a pot; and when it boils, ſcum

ſcum the pot, and put good ſtore of oatmeal into it, and ſuch herbs as pottage is uſually made with; boil theſe till the fleſh is very tender, and feed your dog with this morning and evening, and it will recover him.

If you deſign your greyhound for a wager, then give him his diet-bread as follows:

Take half a peck of good wheat, and half a peck of the fineſt dried oatmeal, grind them together, boult the meal, and having ſcattered in it an indifferent quantity of liquorice and anniſeeds, well beaten together, knead it up with the whites of eggs, and bake it in ſmall loaves indifferent hard, then ſoak it in beef or other broths; and having walked him and aired him half an hour after ſun-riſe in the morning, and half an hour before ſun-ſetting, give him ſome of it to eat.

The Exerciſe of a GREYHOUND.

He ought to be courſed three times a week, rewarding him with blood, which will animate and encourage him to proſecute his game; but forget not to give the hare all the juſt and lawful advantage, ſo that ſhe may ſtand long before the greyhound, that thereby he may ſhew his utmoſt ſtrength and ſkill before he reap the benefit of his labour.

If he kill, do not ſuffer him to break the hare, but take her from him, and clean his chaps from the wool of the hare; give him the liver and lights, and then take him up in your leaſh, lead him home, and waſh his feet with ſome butter and beer, and put him into the kennel, and half an hour afterwards feed him.

Upon the courſing days, give your hound a toaſt and butter or oil, in the morning, and nothing elſe, and then kennel him till he go to the courſe.

The kennelling greyhounds after this manner breeds in them luſt, ſpirit and nimbleneſs: it alſo prevents ſeveral dangerous caſualties, and keeps the pores cloſe, ſo as not to ſpend till time of neceſſity; therefore ſuffer not your hound to go out of the kennel, but at the hours of feeding, walking, courſing, or other neceſſary buſineſs,

Of

Of Terriers.

A Terrier is a kind of hound, uſed chiefly for hunting the fox or badger: ſo called, becauſe he creeps into the ground, as the ferrets do into the coney-burrows, and there nips and bites the fox and badger, either tearing them in pieces with his teeth, or elſe hauling and pulling them by force out of their lurking holes; or at leaſt driving them out of their hollow harbours, to be taken by a net or otherwiſe.

The huntſmen have commonly a couple of terriers, to the end they may put in a freſh one, as occaſion ſerves, to relieve the other.

The time proper for entering theſe terriers is, when they are near a year old; for if it be not done within that time, they will hardly after be brought to take the earth, and this entering and fleſhing of them may be performed ſeveral ways.

When foxes and badgers have young cubs, take your old terriers, and enter them in the ground; and when they begin to bay, you muſt hold every one of your terriers at a particular hole or mouth of the earth, that they may liſten, and hear the old ones bay.

After you have taken the old fox or badger, ſo that nothing remain within but the young cubs, couple all your old terriers, and put the young ones in their ſtead; encouraging them by crying to him, to him.

And if they take any young cub within the ground, let them alone to do what they will with him; and do not forget to give the old terriers their reward; which is blood and livers fried with cheeſe, and ſome of their greaſe, ſhewing the heads and ſkins to encourage them.

Another way is, to take an old fox or badger, and to cut his nether jaw away, leaving the upper to ſhew the fury of the beaſt, though he can do no harm with it, or elſe break out all his teeth; then dig an earth in ſome convenient place in the ground, making it wide enough, that your terriers may the better turn therein, and have room enough for two to enter.

Cover

Cover the hole with boards and turf, firſt putting the fox or badger in, and then your terriers, both young and old, which when they have bayed ſufficiently, begin to dig with ſpades and mattocks, to encourage them, againſt ſuch times as you are to dig over them; afterwards, take out the fox or badger, with the chumps or pinchers, killing it before them; or let a greyhound kill it in their ſight.

Of BUCK HUNTING.

HAVING, under the article Hart, (which ſee) treated ſo largely, as to their nature, and the ways of hunting them, there needs the leſs to be ſaid as to hunting the buck, and the rules for taking him; for he that can hunt a hart or ſtag well, will not hunt a buck ill.

Beſides, fallow deer being common among us, and thoſe uſually in parks and incloſures of divers ſituations and ſtatures, different from one another; it would be a difficult taſk to give inſtructions for every particular.

And indeed it is the proper buſineſs of every keeper of parks, &c. to underſtand the nature and craft of his deer in hunting; all are to be acquired by experience more than reading; however, I ſhall briefly inform you of what relates to buck-hunting, as now practiſed.

There is no ſuch ſkill and art required in lodging a buck, as in harbouring a hart or ſtag, nor ſo much drawing after, but you may judge by the view, and obſerve what grove or coppice he enters; for a buck does not wander up and down as a hart, nor change his layer ſo often, neither uſes ſo many croſſings, doublings, ſhifts and devices, nor doth he flee ſo far before the hounds, but avoids the high-way and open places, as much as he can; he is not ſo crafty or ſo ſtrong to beat a river, or to ſtay ſo long at ſoil; neither is he ſo free to take a great river, nor muſt it be deep; but being cloſe hunted, he will flee into ſuch ſtrong coverts as he is accuſtomed to, and it has been obſerved that ſome bucks that have leaped over a park pale, after a ring or two,

two, have returned of themſelves, chuſing rather to die where they have been acquainted than in a ſtrange place.

The buck groans and trots as the hart belleth, and with a worſe noiſe and rattling in the throat, leaps lighter at the rut than the ſtag; neither will theſe two beaſts come near one another's layer, and they have ſeldom or never any other relays than the old hounds.

They alſo herd more than the hart does, and lie in the drieſt places, though if they are at large, they herd but little from May to Auguſt.

Now the greateſt ſubtilty a huntſman needs to uſe in hunting the buck, is to have a care of hunting, counting, or change, becauſe of the plenty of fallow-deer that uſe to come more directly upon the hounds, than the red deer does.

The does begin to fawn about the end of May, and continue till Midſummer.

The bucks mew or ſhed their horns or heads every year, about, or in April, and part of May, and their new ones are burniſhed about the end of Auguſt.

The buck makes his Fewmiſhing in divers manners and forms as the hart, according to the diverſity of food, and the time of the day, morning and evening; but they are moſt commonly round.

The buck comes in ſeaſon the eighth of July, and goes out at holy-rood, which is the fourteenth of September.

The doe comes in ſeaſon when the buck goes out, and goes out at Twelfth-tide.

In buck-hunting the ſame hounds are uſed as in running the ſtag. In foreſts and chaſes, as they lie at layer, ſo they are hunted.

In parks where they are incloſed, the ſport is not ſo diverting by reaſon of the greater change and ſoil, unleſs they break out and run the country, which they ſeldom do.

But deer that lie out though near the park, make for the generality better chaſes than foreſt deer.

The keeper ſhooting a BUCK *to be run down.*

In order to facilitate the chaſe, the keeper commonly ſelects a fat buck out of the herd, which he ſhoots to maim him, and then he is run down by the hounds.

As to the method of hunting the buck; the company generally go out very early for the benefit of the morning, ſometimes they have a deer ready lodged, if not, the coverts are drawn till one is rouzed; or ſometimes in a park a deer is pitched upon, and forced from the herd, then more hounds are laid on to run the chaſe; if you come to be at a fault, the old ſtaunch hounds are only to be relied upon till you recover him again: if he be ſunk and the hounds thruſt him up, it is called an imprime, and the company all ſound a recheat; when he is run down, every one ſtrives to get in to prevent his being torn by the hounds, fallow-deer ſeldom or never ſtanding at bay.

He that firſt gets in cries hoo-up, to give notice that he is down and blows a death. When the company are all come, they paunch him and reward the hounds; and generally the chief perſon of quality amongſt them takes ſay, that is, cut his belly open, to ſee how fat he is.

When this is done, every one has a chop at his neck, and the head being cut off is ſhewed to the hounds to encourage them to run only at male deer, which they ſee by the horns, and to teach them to bite only at the head: then the company all ſtanding in a ring, one blows a ſingle death, which being done, all blow a double recheat, and conclude the chace with a general hallo of hoo-up, and depart the field to their ſeveral homes, or places of meeting. and the huntſman or ſome other, hath the deer croſs the buttocks of his horſe, and ſo carries him home.

Of HARTS.

A HART is the moſt noble and ſtately beaſt, and in the firſt year is called a hind-calf, in the ſecond a knobber, in the third a brock, in the fourth, a ſtaggard, in the fifth, a ſtag, and in the ſixth, a hart.

Harts are bred in moſt countries, but the ancients prefer thoſe of Britain before all others, where they are of divers colours.

Theſe excel all others in the beauty of their horns, which are very high, yet do not grow to their bones or ſcalps, but to their ſkins, branching forth into many ſpears, being ſolid throughout, and as hard as ſtones, and fall off once a year.

But if they remain abroad in the air; and if they are by that means ſometimes wet and ſometimes dry, they grow as light as any other leſs ſolid ſubſtance; by which it ſhould ſeem they are of an earthy ſubſtance, concrete, and hardened with a ſtrong heat, made like unto bones.

They loſe their horns every year in the ſpring.

At one year old they have nothing but bunches, that are ſmall ſignificators of horns to come: at two years they appear more perfectly, but ſtrait and ſingle: at three years they grow into two ſpears; at four into three, and ſo increaſe every year in their branches till they are ſix; and above that time their age is not certainly to be known by the head.

Having loſt their horns, in the day-time they hide themſelves, inhabiting the ſhades, to avoid the annoyance of flies, and feed, during that time, only in the night.

Their new horns come out at firſt like bunches, and afterwards (as has been ſaid before) by the increaſe of the ſun's heat they grow more hard, covered with a rough ſkin, which is called a velvet head; and as that ſkin drieth, they daily try the ſtrength of their new heads upon trees, which not only ſcrapeth off the roughneſs, but by the pain they feel by thus rubbing them, they are taught how long to forbear the company of their fellows; for at laſt, when in

their

their chaffing and fretting of their new horns againſt the trees, they can feel no longer pain and ſmart in them, they ſeem as if they thought it were high time to forſake their ſolitary dwellings, and return again to their former condition.

It has been obſerved, that when a hart pricketh up his ears, he windeth ſharp, very far and ſure, and diſcovereth all treachery againſt him; but if they hang down and wag, he perceives no danger.

Their age is diſcerned by their teeth; they have four on both ſides, with which they grind their meat, beſides two others, which are much larger in the male than in the female.

All theſe beaſts have worms in their heads, underneath their tongues, in a hollow place where the neck bone is joined to the head, which are no bigger than fly-blows.

The blood of the hart is not like that of other beaſts, for it hath no fibres in it, and therefore it is hardly congealed.

His heart is very great, and ſo are thoſe of fearful beaſts, having in it a bone like a croſs.

He hath no gall, and that is one of the cauſes of his long life, and therefore are his bowels ſo bitter, that the dogs will not touch them unleſs they be very fat.

The genital part of a hart is all nervous, the tail ſmall, and a hind hath udders between her thighs, with four ſpeans like a cow.

Theſe are, above all other beaſts, both ingenious and fearful, who although they have large horns, yet their defence againſt other four-footed beaſts is to run away.

The hart is ſtrangely amazed, when he hears any one call or whiſtle in his fiſt: for trial of which, ſome ſeeing a hart in the plain in motion, have called after him, crying, ware, ware, take heed; and thereupon have ſeen him inſtantly turn back, making ſome little ſtand.

He hears very perfectly when his head and ears are erected, but imperfectly when he lets them down.

When he is on foot, and not afraid, he admires every thing he ſees, and takes a pleaſure to gaze at them.

A hart can naturally ſwim a great way, inſomuch that ſome which have been hunted in foreſts near the ſea, have plunged into it, and have been killed by fiſhermen twelve miles from land.

It is reported of them, that when they go to rut, and for that purpoſe are obliged to paſs ſome great river or arm of the ſea, they aſſemble in great herds, the ſtrongeſt going in firſt, and the next in ſtrength following him, and ſo one after the other, relieving themſelves by ſtaying their heads on the buttocks of each other.

The hind commonly carries her calf eight or nine months, which uſually falls in May, although ſome of them have two at once, and eat up the ſkin wherein the calf did lie.

As the calf grows up, ſhe teaches it to run, leap, the way it muſt take to defend itſelf from the hounds.

Harts and hinds are very long lived, living commonly an hundred years and upwards.

Of HART-HUNTING.

The huntſman muſt firſt of all encompaſs the beaſt in his own layer, and ſo unharbour him in the view of the dogs, that ſo they may never loſe his ſlot or footing.

Neither muſt he ſet upon every one, either of the herd, or thoſe that wander ſolitary alone, or a little one, but partly by ſight, and partly by their footing and fumets, make a judgment of the game, and alſo obſerve the largeneſs of his layer.

The huntſman having made theſe diſcoveries in order to the chaſe, takes off the couplings of the dogs, and ſome on horſeback, and others on foot, follow the cry with the greateſt art, obſervation and ſpeed, remembering and intercepting him in his ſubtle turnings and headings: with all agility leaping hedges, gates, pales and ditches: neither fearing thorns, down hills nor woods, but mounting freſh horſe if the firſt tire: follow the largeſt head of the whole herd, which muſt be ſingled out of the chaſe, which the dogs perceiving muſt follow; not following any other.

The

The dogs are animated to the ſport by the winding of horns and the voices of the huntſmen.

But ſometimes the crafty beaſt ſends forth his little ſquire to be ſacrificed by the dogs and hunters inſtead of himſelf, lying cloſe the mean time. In this caſe, the huntſman muſt ſound a retreat, break off the dogs, and take them in, that is, leam them again, until they be brought to the fairer game; which riſeth with fear, yet ſtill driveth by flight, until he be wearied and breathleſs.

The nobles call the beaſt a wiſe hart, who, to avoid all his enemies, runneth into the greateſt herds, and ſo brings a cloud of error on the dogs, to obſtruct their farther purſuit; ſometimes alſo beating ſome of the herd upon his footings, that ſo he may more eaſily eſcape, by amuſing the dogs.

Afterwards he betakes himſelf to his heels again, ſtill running with the wind, not only for the ſake of refreſhment, but alſo becauſe by that means he can the more eaſily hear the voice of his purſuers, whether they be far from him or near to him.

But at laſt being diſcovered by the hunters, and ſagacious ſcent of the dogs, he flies into the herds of cattle, as cows, ſheep, &c. leaping on a cow or ox, laying the fore parts of his body thereon, that ſo touching the earth only with his hinder feet, he may leave a very ſmall or no ſcent at all behind for the hounds to diſcern.

A chief huntſman to Lewis XII. of France, affirms that on a time, they having a hart in chace, on a ſudden the hounds were at a fault, ſo as the game was out of ſight, and not a dog would once ſtir his foot, at which the hunters were all amazed; at laſt, by caſting their eyes about, they diſcovered the fraud of the crafty beaſt.

There was a great white thorn, which grew in a ſhadowy place, as high as a moderate tree, which was encompaſſed about with other ſmall ſhrubs; into this the hart having leaped, ſtood there a-loft, the boughs ſpreading from one to another, and there remained till he was thruſt through by the huntſman, rather than he would yield himſelf up a prey to the hounds his mortal enemies.

But their uſual manner is, when they ſee themſelves hard beſet, and every way intercepted, to make force at their enemies with their horns, who firſt comes upon him, unleſs they be prevented by ſpear or ſword.

When the beaſt is ſlain, the huntſman with his horn windeth the fall of the beaſt, and then the whole company comes up, blowing their horns in triumph for ſuch a conqueſt; among whom, the ſkilfulleſt opens the beaſt, rewards the hounds with what properly belongs to them, for their future encouragement, for which purpoſe the huntſmen dip bread in the blood and ſkin of the beaſt, to give to the hounds.

Of the rut of HARTS.

Their rutting time is about the middle of September, and continues two months; the older they are the hotter, and the better they pleaſe the hinds, and therefore they go to rut before the young ones; and being very fiery, they will not ſuffer any of them to come near the hinds, till they have ſatisfied their venereal appetite.

But for all this, the young ones are even with the old; for when they perceive that the old are grown weak by exceſs of rutting, the young will frequently attack them, and make them quit the place, that they may be maſters of the ſport.

They may be eaſily killed in rutting-time, for they follow the ſcent of the hinds with ſo much eagerneſs, laying their noſes to the ground, that they mind that only and nothing elſe.

It is dangerous for any man to come near them at that time, for then they will make at any living creature of a different kind.

In ſome place their luſt ariſes in October, and alſo in May; and then, whereas at other times the males live apart from the females, they go about like laſcivious lovers, ſeeking the company of the females.

The males, in their raging luſt, make a peculiar noiſe.

One male will cover many females, continuing in this appetite for one or two months.

The females ſeem chaſte, and unwilling to admit of copulation, by reaſon of the rigour of the genital of the male; and therefore they ſink down on their buttocks when they begin to feel his ſemen, as it has been obſerved in tame harts; and if they can, the females run away, the males ſtriving to hold them back with their fore feet.

It cannot be well ſaid that they are covered ſtanding, lying, or going, but rather running; for ſo are they filled with greateſt ſeverity.

When one month or ſix weeks is over of their rutting, they grow much tamer; and laying aſide all fierceneſs, they return to their ſolitary place, digging every one by himſelf a ſeveral hole or ditch, in which they lie to aſſuage the ſtrong ſavour of their luſt; for they ſtink like goats, and their face begins to look blacker than at other times: and in thoſe places they live till ſome ſhowers of rain fall; after which they return to the paſture again, living in flocks as they did before.

The females having been thus filled, never aſſociate again with the male till ſhe is delivered of her burthen, which is in about eight months, and produces generally but one at a time, very ſeldom two; which ſhe lodges cunningly in ſome covert. If ſhe perceive them ſtubborn and wild, ſhe will beat them with her feet till they lie cloſe and quiet.

She oftentimes leadeth forth her young; teaching it to run, and leap over buſhes, ſtones, and ſmall ſhrubs, and ſo continueth all the ſummer long, while their own ſtrength is the moſt conſiderable.

It is very pleaſant to obſerve them when they go out to rut, and make their vault: for when they ſmell the hind, they raiſe their noſe up into the air; and if it be a great hart, he will turn his head and look about to ſee whether there be none near him to interrupt and ſpoil his ſport.

Upon

Upon this, the young fly away for fear; but if there be any of equal bigneſs, they then ſtrive which ſhall vault firſt; and in the oppoſing each other, they ſcrape the ground with their feet, ſhocking and butting each other ſo furiouſly, that they may hear the noiſe they make with their horns, a good half mile, ſo long till one of them is conqueror.

The hind beholding this encounter, never ſtirs from her ſtation, expecting, as it were, the vaulting of him who ſhall get the maſtery, who having got it, bellows, and then inſtantly covers her.

Of the coats and colours of HARTS.

The coats of harts are of three different ſorts, brown, red, and fallow; and of each of theſe coats there proceeds two ſorts of harts, the one great and the other ſmall.

Of brown harts, there are ſome great, long and hairy, bearing a high head, of a red colour and well beamed, who will ſtand before the hounds very long, being longer of breadth, and ſwifter of foot than thoſe of a ſhorter ſtature.

There are another ſort of brown hart, which are little, ſhort and well ſet, beating commonly a black mane, and are fatter and better veniſon than the former, by reaſon of their better feeding in young coppices.

They are very crafty, eſpecially when in greaſe, and will be hardly found, becauſe they know they are then moſt enquired after; beſides they are ſenſible they cannot ſtand long before the hounds.

If they be old and feed on good ground, then are their heads black, fair, and well branched, and commonly palmed at the top.

The fallow harts bear their heads high and of a whitiſh colour, their beams ſmall, their antlers long, ſlender, and ill grown; having neither heart, courage, nor force.

But thoſe that are of a lively red fallow, having a black or brown liſt down the ridge of the back, are ſtrong,

ſtrong, bearing fair and high heads, well furniſhed and beamed.

Of the head, and branches of HARTS.

As there are ſeveral ſorts of harts, ſo alſo have they different heads, according to their age, country, reſt and feeding.

Here you muſt take notice, that they bear not their firſt head (which we call broches, and in the fallow deer pricks) until they enter the ſecond year of their age.

In the third year they bear four, ſix, or eight ſmall branches; at the fourth, they bear eight or ten: at the fifth, ten or twelve: at ſix, fourteen or ſixteen: and the ſeventh year, they bear their heads beamed, branched and ſummed, which is as much as ever they will bear, and do never multiply but in greatneſs only.

The time of HARTS *mewing or caſting their heads.*

An old hart caſteth his head ſooner than the young, and the time is about the months of February and March.

Here note, that if you geld a hart before he hath a head, he will never bear any; and if you geld him when he has a head, he will never after mew and caſt it: and ſo if he be gelded when he hath a velvet head, it will ever be ſo, without fraying or burniſhing.

As ſoon as they have caſt their heads, they inſtantly withdraw into the thickets, hiding themſelves in ſuch convenient places where they can have good water and ſtrong feeding, near ſome ground where wheat and peaſe are ſown: but young harts do never betake themſelves to the thickets till they have borne their third head, which is the fourth year.

After they have mewed, they will begin to button in March and April; and as the ſun grows ſtrong, and the ſeaſon of the year puts forward the crops of the earth, ſo will their heads increaſe in all reſpects; ſo that by the middle of June, their heads will be ſummed as much as they will bear all the year.

The

The names and diverſity of Heads, according to the terms uſed by Hunters.

The part which bears the antlers, royals, and tops is called the beam, and the little ſtreaks there are called gutters.

That which is about the cruſt of the beam is termed pearls, and that which is about the bur itſelf, formed like little pearls, is called, pearls bigger than the reſt.

The bur is next the head, and that which is about the bur is called pearls; the firſt is called antler, the ſecond ſur-antler: all the reſt which grow afterwards until you come to the crown, palm, or croche, are called royals, and ſur-royals; the little buds or broches about the top, are called croches.

Their heads alſo go by ſeveral names; the firſt head is called a crowned top, becauſe the croches are ranged in form of a crown.

The ſecond is called a palmed top, becauſe the croaches are formed like a man's hand.

Thirdly, all heads which bear not above three or four, the croches being placed aloft, all of one height, in form of a cluſter of huts, are to be called heads of ſo many croches.

Fourthly, all heads which bear two in top, or having their croches doubling, are to be called forked heads.

Fifthly, all heads which have double burs, or the antlers, royals and croches, turned downwards, contrary to other heads, are called heads.

How to know an old HART *by the ſlot, entries, abatures, ſoil, fewmets, gate and walks, fraying-ſtocks, head and branches.*

Firſt, by the ſlot. You muſt take good notice of the treading of the hart's foot; if you find the treading of two, the one long and the other round, yet both of one bigneſs, yet the long ſlot will indicate the hart to be much larger than the round.

And

And beſides, the old hart's hind foot doth never over-reach the fore foot; that of the young ones do.

But above all, take this obſervation: When you have found the ſlot of a hart in the wood, take notice what manner of footing it is, whether worn or ſharp; and accordingly obſerve the country, and judge by that whether either may be occaſioned thereby.

For harts bred in mountains and ſtony countries, have the toes and ſides of their feet worn, by means of their continual climbing and reſting themſelves thereon, and not on the heel; whereas in other places they ſtay themſelves more on the heel than toes, for in ſoft or ſandy ground they ſlip upon the heel, by reaſon of their weight; and thus by frequent ſtaying themſelves thereon, it makes the heel grow broader and bigger.

And thus may the age of a hart be known by his ſlot or treading.

The next thing to be conſidered is the fewmets; and this is to be judged in April and May. If the fewmets or fewmiſhing be large and thick, they intimate that the hart is old.

In the months of June and July, they make their fewmets in large croſeys, very ſoft; and from that time to the end of Auguſt, they make them large, long, knotty and anointed, and gilded, letting them fall but few and ſcattered.

In September and October, there is no longer paſſing a judgment by them, by reaſon of the rut.

Thirdly, in order to know the height and thickneſs of a hart, obſerve his entries and galleries into the thickets, and what boughs he has over-ſtridden, and mark from thence the height of his belly from the ground.

By the height of the entries, a judgment is made of the age of a hart; for a young deer is ſuch as uſually creep, but the old ones are ſtiff and ſtately.

His largeneſs may be known by the height of his creeping as he paſſes to his harbour, the young deer creeping low, which the old will not ſtoop to.

Fourthly,

Fourthly, take notice of his gaity, by which you may know whether the hart be great and long, and whether he will ſtand long before the hounds or not; for all harts which have a long ſtep will ſtand up a long while, being ſwift, light and well breathed; but if he leaves a great ſlot, which is a ſign of an old deer, he will not ſtand long when he is chaſed.

Laſtly, take notice of his fraying-poſt; where obſerve, that by how much the hart is the older, the ſooner he goes to fray, and the larger is the tree he chuſes to fray againſt, and one ſo ſtrong that he cannot bend with his head.

All ſtags as they are furniſhed, beat their beads dry againſt ſome tree or other, which is called their fraying-poſt; the younger deer do it againſt weaker, leſſer and lower trees; ſo that accordingly hunters judge confidently of their age, and the nearneſs of their harbour, for that is the laſt action or ceremony they uſe before they enter it.

As to the head and branches, a hart is old; Firſt, when the compaſs of the bur is large, great and well pearled.

Secondly, when the beam is large burthened and well pearled, being ſtrait, and not rendered crooked by antlers.

Thirdly, when the gutters in it are large and deep.

Fourthly, when the firſt antler, called anteiller, is large, long, and near to the bur, the ſur-antler near to the antler; and they ought to be both well pearled.

Fifthly, the reſt of the branches which are higher, being well ordered and ſet, and well grown, according to the largeneſs and proportion of the head: and the croches, palm, or crown, being great and large too, according to the largeneſs of the beam, are ſigns of an old hart.

How to ſeek a HART *in his haunts and feeding places, according to the ſeaſons of the year.*

All harts change their manner of feeding every month; and foraſmuch as November is the concluſion of their rut-

ting-

ting-time, I ſhall begin with that: in this they feed in heaths and broomy places.

In December they herd together, and withdraw themſelves into the ſtrengths of the foreſts, to ſhelter themſelves from the cold winds, ſnows, and froſts, feed on the holl trees, elder trees, brambles, and whatſoever green thing they can find; and if it ſnow, they will ſkin or peel the trees like a goat.

In January, February and March, they leave herding but will keep four or five in company, and in the corner of the foreſt will feed on the winter paſture, ſometimes making their incurſions into the neighbouring corn-fields if they can perceive the blades of wheat, rye, or the like appear above ground.

In April and May, they reſt in their thickets and other buſhy and ſhady places, during that ſeaſon, and ſtir very little till rutting time, unleſs they are diſturbed.

There are ſome harts ſo cunning, that they will have ſeveral layers to harbour in, a good diſtance one from the other, and will frequently change (for their greater ſecurity) from the one to the other; taking ſtill the benefit of the wind.

In theſe months they go not to the ſoil, by reaſon of the moiſture of the ſpring, and the dew that continually overſpreads the graſs.

In June, July and Auguſt, they are in the pride of the greaſe, and do reſort to ſpring coppices and corn fields only they ſeldom go where rye or barley grows.

In September and October they leave their thickets and go to the rut, during which ſeaſon they have no certain place either for food or harbour.

After what manner a Huntſman ſhould go drawing in the ſprings.

He ought not to come too early in the ſprings, or hewts where he thinks the hart feedeth, and is at relief, for they uſually go to their layers in the ſprings, and if they be old, crafty deer, they will return to the border of the coppice, and there liſten whether they can hear any approaching

ing danger, and if they once chance to vent the Huntſman or the hound, they will inſtantly diſlodge.

Now is the Huntſman's proper time; let him beat the outſides of the ſprings or thickets; if he find the track of a hart or deer, he ought to obſerve whether it be freſh, which may be known by the following tokens, the dew will be beaten off, the ſoil freſh, or the ground broken, or printed with other tokens; ſo he may judge his game lately went that way.

Having found his ſlot or treading, and the hound ſticking well upon it, let him hold him ſhort; for he ſhall draw better, being ſo held, than if he were let at length of the leam; and thus let him draw till he is come to the covert, if poſſible, taking notice by the way, of the ſlot, falls, entries, and the like, till he hath harboured him.

Having done this, let him plaſh down ſmall twigs, ſome above and ſome below, as he ſhall think fit, and the while the hound is hot, let him beat the outſides and make ring-walks twice or thrice about the wood, one while by the great and open ways, that he may help himſelf by the eye; another while through the thickets and coverts, for fear leſt his hounds ſhould overſhoot it, having ſtill better ſcent in the coverts than highways.

If he is in doubt whether the hart is gone out of the ring-walks, or fear he has drawn amiſs, then let him go to the marks that he plaſhed, and draw counter, till he may take up the fewmet.

Directions for harbouring a STAG.

The harbourer having taught his hound to draw mute always round the outſide of the covert, as ſoon as his hound challenges, which he knows by his eager flouriſhing and ſtraining his leam, he then is to ſeek for his ſlot; if he finds his heel thick, and the toe ſpreading broad, theſe are ſigns that it is an old deer, eſpecially if it be fringed, that is broken on both the ſides.

And if the ground be too hard to make any judgment from the ſlot, he muſt draw into the covert as he paſſes, obſerving the ſize of the entries; the larger and higher, the older the deer: as alſo his croppings of the tenders as he

he paſſes, the younger the deer the lower, the older the deer the higher are the branches.

He ought alſo to obſerve the fewmiſhings as he paſſes, the largeneſs of which beſpeaks the largeneſs of the deer: He muſt alſo be curious in obſerving the fraying poſt, which is uſually the laſt opportunity he has to judge by; the eldeſt deer fraying higheſt, againſt the largeſt trees, and that being found, it may be concluded his harbour is not far off.

Therefore he ought to draw with more circumſpection, checking the drawing-hound to ſecure him from ſpending when he comes ſo near as to have the deer in the wind, which when you have diſcovered by his eagerneſs that draws him, let him retire ſome diſtance back, and round the place with the hound, firſt at a conſiderable diſtance, and then if he finds him not diſturbed, let him make a ſecond round within that; and this will not only ſecure you that he is in the harbour, but will alſo ſecure his continuance there; for he will not (except he be forced) paſs that taint your hound left in the rounding of him.

So that having broke a bough for his direction, he may at any time unharbour that hart.

How to find a HART *loſt the night before.*

A Huntſman may fail of killing a hart divers ways; ſometimes by reaſon of great heat, or by being overtaken with the night, or the like.

If it ſhould happen ſo, do as follows.

Firſt, they who follow the hounds, muſt mark the place where they left the chace, and at break of day bring the blood hound to it, with the kennel after him.

If any hound vents, whom he knows to be no liar nor babbler, he ſhall put his hound to it, whooping twice, or blowing two notes with his horn, to call all his fellows about him; and if he find where the hart is gone into ſome likely covert or grove, then muſt he draw his hounds about it, and if he there renews the ſlot or view, let him firſt conſider whether it be right or not, if it be right let him blow his horn.

And if he happens to find five or ſix layers, let it not ſeem ſtrange, for harts hunted and ſpent do frequently make many layers together, becauſe they cannot ſtand, but lie and feed.

Harts which are hunted, moſt commonly run up the wind, and ſtrait forwards as far as they are able, and finding any water or ſoil, do ſtay a long time therein, by which means their joints are ſo benumbed and ſtiffened, that coming out, they cannot go far, nor ſtand up long, and therefore are forced to take up with any harbour they can find which may be a preſent covert to them.

How to find a HART *in high woods.*

In the ſeeking of a hart in high woods, you muſt have regard to two things; that is, the thickets of the foreſt and the ſeaſon.

If it be in very hot weather, gnats, horſe-flies, and the like, drive the deer out of the high woods, and they diſperſe themſelves into ſmall groves and thickets, near places of good feeding.

According to the coverts which are in the foreſt, ſo muſt the Huntſman make his enquiry; for ſometimes the hart lies in the tufts of white-thorn, ſometimes under little trees, other whiles under great trees in the high woods, and ſometimes in the ſkirts of the foreſt, under the ſhelter of little groves and coppices.

And therefore the Huntſman muſt make his ring-walk large or ſmall, according to the largeneſs of thoſe harbours or coverts.

How to unharbour a HART *and caſt off the hounds.*

When the relays are well ſet and placed, let the Huntſman with his pole walk before the kennel of hounds; and being come to the blemiſhes, let him take notice of the ſlot, and ſuch other marks as may be obſerved from the view of the deer, in order that he may know whether the hounds run riot or not.

Then the huntſman muſt caſt abroad about the covert,

to

to diſcover the hart when he is unharboured, the better to diſtinguiſh him by his head or otherwiſe.

If the blood-hound, in drawing, chance to overſhoot, and draw wrong or counter, then the huntſman muſt draw him back, ſaying, back, back, ſoft ſoft, until he hath ſet him right again; and if he perceive that the hound hath mended his fault, by his kneeling down and obſerving the ſlot or ports, he muſt then cheriſh him, by clapping him on the back, and giving him encouraging words; thus muſt he draw on with his hounds till he deſcries the deer.

Some deers are ſo cunning and crafty, that when they are unharboured from their layer, they will coaſt round about to find ſome other deer, whereby the hounds may be confounded in the change of huts.

If the huntſman hath a hart in view, he ought ſtill to draw upon the ſlot, blowing and hallooing till the hounds are come in. When he finds they are in full cry, and take it right, he then may mount, keeping under the wind and coaſt, to croſs the hounds that are in chaſe to help them at default, if need require.

The ſubtilties which are uſed in hunting a HART *at force.*

A huntſman ought never to come nearer to the hounds in cry, then fifty or ſixty paces, eſpecially at the firſt uncoupling, or at caſting off the relays; for if a hart make doublings, or wheel about or acroſs before the hounds, (as he ſeldom does) if then you come in too haſtily, you will ſpoil the ſlot or view, and ſo the hounds, for want of ſcent, will be apt to overſhoot the chace.

But if after you have hunted an hour, the huntſman perceives that the hart makes out end-ways before the hounds, and that they follow in full cry, taking it right, then he may come in nearer, and blow a recheat to the hounds, to encourage them.

Hereupon the hart will frequently ſeek other deer at layer, and rouſe them, on purpoſe to make the hounds hunt chace, and will lie down in ſome of their layers flat upon his belly, and ſo ſuffer the hounds to over-ſhoot him: and that they may not either ſcent or vent him, he will

gather up all his four feet under his belly, and will blow or breathe on ſome moiſt place of the ground, ſo that the hounds may paſs by him, poſſibly, though within a yard, and never vent him.

For which cauſe huntſmen ſhould blemiſh at thoſe places, where they ſee the hart enter into a thicket, to the end, that if the hounds ſhould fail to change they may return to theſe blemiſhes, and put the hounds to the right ſlot and view, until they have rouzed and found him again.

A hart has another way to bring the hounds to change, and that is, when he ſees himſelf cloſely purſued, and that he cannot ſhun them, he will break into one thicket after another to find deer, rouzing and herding with them, continuing ſo to do ſometimes above an hour, before he will part from them, or break herd.

Finding himſelf ſpent, he will break herd, and fall a doubling and croſſing in ſome hard highway that is much beaten, or elſe in ſome river or brook, in which he will keep as long as his breath will permit him: and if he be far before the hounds, it may be then he will uſe the former device, gathering his legs under his belly, as he lies flat along upon ſome hard dry place.

Sometimes he will take ſoil and ſo cover himſelf under the water, that you ſhall perceive nothing but his noſe.

In this caſe the Huntſman muſt have a ſpecial regard to his old hounds, who will hunt leiſurely and fearfully, whereas the young hounds will over ſhoot their game.

If the hounds happen to be at a default, and hunt in ſeveral companies, then it may be gueſſed that the hart has broken herd from the freſh deer, and that the freſh deer have ſeparated themſelves alſo: then notice is to be taken how the old ſtanch hounds make it, and to obſerve the ſlot; and where you ſee any of the old hounds challenge, cheriſh and encourage that hound or hounds, haſtening the reſt in to him, crying hark to ſuch a hound, calling him by his name.

Here it is to be noted, that they cannot make it ſo well in the hard highways as in other places, becauſe they cannot have there ſo perfect a ſcent, either by reaſon of the

tracks or footing of divers ſorts of beaſts, or by reaſon of the ſun drying up the moiſture ſo that the duſt covereth the ſlot. Now in ſuch places (ſuch is the natural ſubtilty of the beaſt for ſelf-preſervation) the hart will make many croſſings and doublings, holding them long together to make the hounds give over the chaſe.

In this caſe, the firſt care of the Huntſman is to make good the head, and then draw round apace; firſt down the wind, though deer uſually go up the wind; and if the way is too hard to ſlot, then be ſure to try far enough back. Expert hounds will often do this of themſelves.

But if a hart break out into a champaign country, and in the heat of the day too, i. e. between noon and three of the clock, then if the Huntſman perceive his hounds out of breath, he ought not to force them but comfort them; and though they do not call upon the ſlot or view, yet it is ſufficient if they do but wag their tails, for being almoſt ſpent it is painful for them to call.

The laſt refuge of a hart that has been ſorely hunted, is the water, which in terms of art is called the ſoil; ſwimming ofteneſt down the ſtream, keeping the middle, fearing leſt by touching any bough by the water ſide, he may give ſcent unto the hounds.

Whenever you come to a ſoil, (according to the old rule, He who will his chaſe find, let him firſt try up river and down the wind) be ſure, if your hounds challenge but a yard above his going in, that he has gone up the river; for though he ſhould keep the very middle of the ſtream, yet will that, with the help of the wind, lodge part of the ſtream and imboſh that comes from him on the bank, it may be a quarter of a mile lower, which hath deceived.

Therefore firſt try up the ſtream, and where a deer firſt breaks ſoil, both man and hound will beſt perceive it.

Now the ways to know when a hart is ſpent, are theſe:

Firſt, He will run ſtiff, high and lompering.

Secondly, If his mouth be black and dry, without any foam upon it, and his tongue hanging out; but they will often cloſe their mouths to deceive ſpectators.

Thirdly,

Thirdly, By his ſlot; for oftentimes he will cloſe his claws together as if he went at leiſure and preſently again open them wide, making great glidings, and hitting his dew-claws upon the ground, following the beaten paths without doublings, and ſometimes going all along by a ditch ſide, ſeeking ſome gap, not having ſtrength to leap it: yet it has been often ſeen, the dead-run deer, have taken very great leaps.

A huntſman muſt therefore govern himſelf according to the ſubtilty and craft of the deer, obſerving the doublings and croſſings, and the places where they are made; making his rings little or great, according to the nature of the place, time, and ſeaſon; for hounds are apt to ſhoot where herbs and flowers have their moſt lively ſcent and odoriferous ſmell.

Neither is the perfection or imperfection of the hounds to be diſregarded. And if theſe things be done, it will be much if you loſe a hart by default.

To kill a HART *at bay.*

It is very dangerous to go in to a hart at bay, and eſpecially at rutting time, for at that time they are moſt fierce.

There are two ſorts of bays; one on the land, and the other in the water. Now if the hart be in a deep water, where you cannot well come at him, then couple up your dogs; for ſhould they continue long in the water, it would endanger their ſurbating or foundering.

In this caſe, get a boat and ſwim to him, with a dagger drawn, or elſe with a rope that has a nooſe, and throw it over his horns; for if the water be ſo deep that the hart ſwims, there is no danger in approaching him; otherwiſe you muſt be very cautious.

As to a land-bay, if a hart be burniſhed, then you muſt conſider the place; for if it be in a plain and open place, where there is no wood nor covert, it is dangerous and difficult to come in to him; but if he be on a hedge ſide, or in a thicket, then, while the hart is ſtarting on the hounds,

hounds, you may come ſoftly and covertly behind him and cut his throat.

If you miſs your aim, and the hart turn head upon you, then take refuge at ſome tree; and when the hart is at bay, couple up your hounds; and when you ſee the hart turn head to fly, gallop in roundly to him, and kill him with your ſword.

Directions at the death of a HART *or* BUCK.

The firſt ceremony, when the huntſman comes in to the death of a deer is, to cry, ware haunch, that the hounds may not break in to the deer; which being done, the next is the cutting his throat, and there blooding the youngeſt hounds, that they may the better love a deer, and learn to leap at his throat: then the mort having been blown, and all the company come in, the beſt perſon, who hath not taken ſay before, is to take up the knife that the keeper or huntſman is to lay acroſs the belly of the deer, ſome holding by the fore-legs, and the keeper or huntſman drawing down the pizzle, the perſon who takes ſay, is to draw the edge of the knife leiſurely along the middle of the belly, beginning near the briſket, and drawing a little upon it, enough in the length and depth to diſcover how fat the deer is; then he that is to break up the deer, firſt ſlits the ſkin from the cutting of the throat downwards, making the arber, ſo that the ordure may not break forth, and then he paunches him, rewarding the hounds with it.

In the next place, he is to preſent the ſame perſon who took ſay, with a drawn hanger, to cut off the head of the deer. Which being done, and the hounds rewarded, the concluding ceremony is, if it be a ſtag, then one blows a triple mort; and if a buck, a double one; and then all who have horns, blow a recheat in conſort, and immediately a general whoop, whoop.

It was formerly termed a wind or winding-horn; the horns, probably, were winding, or compaſſed, but afterwards ſtrait horns grew into uſe, and then they uſed to ſay, blow

blow a horn and ſound a horn; and now the French or German horns are in repute.

In many caſes, formerly, leaſing was obſerved; that is, one was held either croſs a ſaddle or on a man's back, and, with a pair of dog-couples, receive ten pounds and a purſe, that is, ten ſtripes (according to the nature of the crime, more or leſs ſevere) and an eleventh that uſed to be as bad as the other ten called a purſe.

There are many faults, as coming too late in the field; miſtaking any term of art: theſe are of the leſſer ſort; the greater are hallooing a wrong deer, or leaving the field before the death of the deer, &c.

Of RABBETS *or* CONIES.

THE rabbet begins to breed at a year old, bears at leaſt ſeven times a year; ſhe carries her young in her belly thirty days, if ſhe litters in the month of March, and as ſoon as ſhe has kennelled, goes to buck again; neither can they ſuckle their young till they have been with buck. Tame rabbets, above all other beaſts, delight in impriſonment and ſolitarineſs; they are violently hot in the act of generation, performing it with ſuch vigour and exceſs, that they ſwoon, and lie in trances a good while after the act.

The males being given too much to cruelty, kill all the young ones they can come at, therefore the females, after they have kennelled, hide them, and cloſe up the holes in ſuch manner, that the buck may not find them: they increaſe wonderfully, bringing forth every month, therefore when kept tame in huts, they muſt be watched, and as ſoon as they have kennelled muſt be put to the buck, for they will otherwiſe mourn and hardly bring up their young.

The huts in which tame rabbets are to be kept, ſhould be made of thin wainſcot boards, ſome about two feet

ſquare

ſquare, and one foot high, which ſquare muſt be divided into two rooms, one with open windows of wire, through which the rabbet may feed, and a leſs room without light, wherein ſhe may lodge and kennel; and a trough, wherein to put meat and other neceſſaries for her, before each of them; and thus you may make box upon box in divers ſtories, keeping the bucks by themſelves as alſo the does, unleſs it be ſuch as have not bred, with which you may let the buck lodge. Further, when a doe has kennelled one neſt, and then kennelled another, the firſt muſt be taken from her, and be put together into ſeveral boxes, amongſt rabbets of their own age, provided the boxes be not peſtered, but that they have eaſe and liberty.

For the choice of tame rich conies, it needs not to look to their ſhape, but to their richneſs; only that the bucks muſt be the largeſt and richeſt you can get; and that ſkin is eſteemed the beſt, that has the equalleſt mixture of black and white hair together, yet the black ſhould rather ſhadow the white: a black ſkin with a few ſilver hairs, being much richer than a white ſkin with a few black ones.

As to the profit of tame rich conies, every one that is killed in ſeaſon, that is, from Martinmas till after Candlemas, is worth five others, as being much better and larger; and when another ſkin is worth two-pence or three-pence at the moſt, theſe are worth a ſhilling or upwards. Again, the increaſe is more; the tame ones, at one kindling, bringing forth more than the wild do; beſides, they are always ready at hand for the diſh, winter and ſummer, without the charge of nets, ferrets, &c. and their ſkins always paying their keeper's expence, with intereſt.

The beſt food for your tame conies, is the ſweateſt, ſhorteſt, and beſt hay you can get; one load will feed two hundred couple a year, and out of the ſtock of two hundred, may be ſpent in the houſe as many as are ſold in the market, and yet a good ſtock maintained to anſwer all caſualties. The hay muſt be put to them in little cloven ſticks, that they may with eaſe reach and pull it out of the ſame, but ſo as not to ſcatter or waſte any; and ſweet oats,

and

and water, ſhould be put for them in the troughs under the boxes: and this ſhould be their ordinary and conſtant food, all other being to be uſed phyſically; as that you may, twice or three times in a fortnight, to cool their bodies, give them mallows, clover-graſs, ſour docks, blades of corn, cabbage, or colewort leaves, and the like, all which both cools and nouriſhes exceedingly; but ſweet grain ſhould be ſeldom uſed, ſince nothing rots them ſooner. Great care muſt be had, that when any graſs is cut for them where are weeds, that there is no hemlock amongſt it, for though they will eat it greedily, yet it is preſent poiſon for them, and ſuddenly kills them. Their huts alſo muſt be kept ſweet and clean every day, for their piſs and ordure is of ſo ſtrong and violent a ſavour, as will annoy themſelves as well as thoſe who look after them.

The infirmities to which tame conies are ſubject, are two fold.

1. The rot; which comes by giving them green meat or gathering greens for them, and giving them to them with the dew on; therefore let them have it but ſeldom, and then the dryneſs of the hay will even dry up the moiſture, knit them, and keep them ſound.

2. There is a certain rage of madneſs engendered from corrupt blood, ſpringing from the rankneſs of their keeping, and which is known by their wallowing and tumbling with their heels upwards, and leaping in their huts; to cure which, give them tare-thiſtle to eat.

Wild rabbets do a great deal of damage to vineyards, and all ſorts of corn, their teeth ſparing nothing that they come near; and in ſuch countries as abound with vineyards, they will eat the young ſhoots as ſoon as they begin to appear, and will do them ſo much damage, that it will endanger their ruin without ſome proper remedy: to prevent which take ſome very ſmall ſticks of willow, well dried, dip one end of them into ſome melted brimſtone, and ſtick the other into the ground; let them be about a fathom diſtant from each other, and ſet fire to them and this will prevent the rabbets (who hate the ſmell) from entering into

into any vineyard, on the ſide of which thoſe ſticks are ſet: the ſmell will laſt four or five days, at the expiration of which you muſt renew it, and ſo a third time, inſomuch, that in about ſixteen days, the ſhoot of the vine will be ſo ſtrong as not to be in danger of the inſults of thoſe animals.

The ways of taking theſe creatures are various, particularly ſuch as ſtray from their burrows may be taken with ſmall greyhounds, or mungrels bred up for that purpoſe; and their places of hunting are among buſhes, hedges, corn-fields, and freſh paſtures; and though you ſhould miſs killing them, yet they are hereby drove back to their burrows, over whoſe holes you may lay purſe-nets, and then put in a ferret cloſe-muffled, which will quickly make them bolt out again to the net, and ſo are caught.

The ferret ſometimes finds a rabbet aſleep, which ſhe ſurpriſes and kills, ſucks her blood, lies upon her, and ſleeps there; in which caſe your are obliged either to kill her, or wait till ſhe awakes, which will be often five or ſix hours; and therefore you muſt fire five or ſix time into the hole to awake her, upon which ſhe will come out; but you muſt always let her ſleep an hour before you fire, or elſe the noiſe will ſignify nothing.

When you take any of the does you muſt turn them looſe, that you may not depopulate your warrens, and ſlit their ears, that they may not be killed by others, who ſometimes lie in wait to ſhoot them.

To force rabbets out of their burrows without a ferret, take ſome powder of orpine and brimſtone, old ſhoes, parchment, or cloth, and burn them at the mouth of the burrow, upon that ſide which the wind blows, and ſpreads your purſe-net under the wind. Some put a crab or two into the holes, which will force them out.

Nets to take RABBETS *and* HARES.

Theſe nets muſt be made in the ſame manner as halliers, wherewith they take partridges. The meſh ſhould be an

inch and a half broad, made of good ſtrong thread, and treble twiſted; but if you would make meſhes lozenge wiſe, you muſt allow four and twenty, and three fathom in length, and let them be well verged with long twiſted thread of a brown colour.

But the net with ſquare meſhes will do better, in which caſe they allow five feet in breadth or height, and three or four fathom in length, according to the place; and in this no verging is required.

The firſt of theſe nets are to be placed in any path or tract, in any coppice or furrow; for rabbets and hares always follow the moſt eaſy and beaten path:

You muſt take notice how the wind ſets that you may ſo ſet the net, that the creature and wind may come together, if the wind be ſide-ways, it may do well enough, but never if the wind blows over the net into the creature's face; for he will ſcent both it and you at a great diſtance, eſpecially a hare.

The way of taking wild CONIES.

There are divers ways of doing this, either by ſmall curs or ſpaniels bred up to the ſport; and the places for hunting them who ſtraggle from their burrows, are among buſhes and hedges, corn-fields, or freſh paſtures; or elſe by courſing them with ſmall greyhounds: and though you may miſs killing them, yet thereby you drive them back to their burrows, and preſerve them from being a prey to others.

You may alſo drive them into their burrows, and ſpread purſe nets upon the holes, ſo that when they come out, they will be entangled in them, and ſo be taken: now to force them out, it will be proper to have a ferret or two, whoſe mouths muſt be couped and muffled up, and ſo put into the holes, which will cauſe the conies to bolt out into your purſe-nets; for the conies will eaſily ſmell the ferrets, and at their approach, (being of a timorous nature) dare not ſtay to ſee them.

And

And for the more certain taking them, it would be proper to have a hay net or two, which ſhould be pitched up at a ſmall diſtance, againſt the burrows you intend to hunt.

Of FERRETS.

A FERRET is a little creature that is bred naturally in England, but not in France, Germany, Italy, and Spain; they are tamed for the uſe of thoſe who keep warrens and others.

The body of this animal is longer than is proportionable; their colour is variable, ſometimes black and white upon the belly; but moſt commonly of a yellowiſh ſandy colour, like wool dyed in urine.

The head is ſomething like that of a mouſe, and therefore into what hole ſoever ſhe can put it, all the body will eaſily follow.

The eyes are ſmall but fiery, like red hot iron, and therefore ſhe ſees moſt clearly in the dark.

Her voice is a whining cry without changing of it: ſhe hath only two teeth in her nether chap, ſtanding out and not joined and growing together,

The genital of the male is of a bony ſubſtance, and therefore it always ſtandeth ſtiff, and is not leſſer at one time than another.

The pleaſure of the ſenſe of copulation, is not in the genital part but in the muſcles, tunicles, and nerves wherein the ſaid genital runs.

When they are in copulation, the female lieth down or bendeth her knees, and continually crieth like a cat, either becauſe the male claweth her with his nails, or by reaſon of the roughneſs of his genital.

The ferret uſually brings forth ſeven or eight at a time, carrying them in her belly for forty days: the young ones are blind for thirty days after they are littered, and

they may be uſed for procreation, as their dam is, within forty days after they can ſee.

When they have been tamed, they are nouriſhed with milk, or barley bread, and they can faſt a very long time.

When they go they contract their long back, and make it ſtand upright in the middle round like a bowl: when they are touched they ſmell like a martel, and they ſleep very much.

The ferret is a bold audacious animal, an enemy to all others but his own kind; drinking and ſucking in the blood of the beaſt it biteth, but eateth not the fleſh.

When the warrener has occaſion to uſe his ferret, he firſt makes a noiſe in the warren to frighten the conies who are abroad into their burrows, and then he pitcheth his nets; after that he puts his ferret into the earth, having muzzled her mouth, ſo that ſhe may not ſeize but only frighten the conies out of their burrows, who are afterwards driven by dogs into the nets or hays, planted for them.

Of OTTERS.

SOME are of opinion that the otter is of the beaver kind, being an amphibious creature, living both in water and on the land; beſides, the outward form of the parts beareth a likeneſs of the beaver; ſome ſay, were his tail off, he were in parts like the beaver, differing in nothing but habitation, for the beaver frequents the ſalt water as well as the freſh, but the otter never goeth to the ſalt.

Though the otter liveth in the water, yet he doth not, like fiſhes, breathe through the benefit of the water, he taketh breath like other four footed beaſts, yet will remain a long time underneath the water without reſpiration.

If he wants prey in the waters, then he will quit them for

for the land; and if by painful hunting on ſhore he cannot fill his belly, he will feed on herbs, ſnails, or frogs; neither will he take leſs pains in the water to ſatisfy his hunger, for he will ſwim for two miles together againſt the ſtream, that ſo when he has filled his belly, the current may carry him down again to his deſigned lodging, which is always near the water, very artificially built with boughs, ſprigs and ſticks, couched together in excellent order, wherein he ſits to keep him from the wet.

In the hunting of fiſh, he often puts his noſe above water to take breath: he is a creature of wonderful ſwiftneſs and activity in taking his prey, and for greedineſs, takes more than he knows what to do with.

He is a very ſubtil and crafty beaſt, and endowed with a wonderful ſagacity and ſenſe of ſmelling, inſomuch that he can directly wind the fiſhes in the water a mile or two diſtance from him.

The fleſh of this beaſt is both cold and filthy, becauſe it feedeth on ſtinking fiſh, and therefore not fit to be eaten; yet it is eaten in Germany, and the Carthuſian Friars, who are forbidden the eating of all manner of fleſh of other four-footed beaſts, yet they are not prohibited the eating of otters. There are thoſe in England, who lately have highly valued an otter pie—much good may do them with it.

Of OTTER-HUNTING.

This is performed by dogs, called otter-hounds, and with a ſort of inſtruments, called otter-ſpears, with which when they find themſelves wounded, they make to land and fight with the dogs, and that furiouſly, as if they were ſenſible that the cold water would annoy their green wounds.

There is indeed craft to be uſed in the hunting them; but they may be catched in ſnares under water, and by river ſides; but great care muſt be taken, for they bite ſorely, and venomouſly, and if they happen to remain long in the ſnare, they will not fail to get themſelves free by their teeth.

In hunting them, one man muſt be on one ſide of the river, and another on the other, both beating the banks with dogs, and the beaſt not being able to endure the water long, you will ſoon diſcover if there be an otter or not in that quarter, for he muſt come out to make his ſpraints, and in the night ſometimes to feed on graſs and herbs.

If any of the hounds find out an otter, then view the ſoft grounds and moiſt places, to find out which way he bent his head; if you cannot diſcover this by the marks, you may partly perceive it by the ſpraints; and then follow the hounds, and lodge him as a hart or deer.

But if you do not find him quickly, you may imagine he is gone to touch ſomewhat farther off from the river; for ſometimes they will go to feed a conſiderable way from the place of their reſt, chuſing rather to go up the river than down it.

The perſons that go a hunting otters, muſt carry their ſpears, to watch his vents, that being the chief advantage; and if they perceive him ſwimming under water, they muſt endeavour to ſtrike him with their ſpears, and if they miſs, muſt purſue him with the hounds; which, (if they be good, and perfectly entered) will go chanting and trailing along by the river ſide, and will beat every root of a tree, and oſier bed, and tuft of bull-ruſhes; nay, they will ſometimes take water, and bait the beaſt, like a ſpaniel, by which means he will hardly eſcape.

Of BIRD-LIME.

BIrdlime is ſtuff prepared after different ways; the common method is to peel a good quantity of holly bark about midſummer, fill a pan with it, put ſpring water to it; boil it till the grey and white bark ariſe from the green, which will require twelve hours boiling; then take it off the fire, drain the water well from it, ſeparate the barks, lay the green bark on the ground in ſome cool

cellar, covered with any green rank weeds, ſuch as dog thiſtles, hemlock, &c. to a good thickneſs; let it lie ſo fourteen days, by which time it will be a perfect mucilage; then pound it well in a ſtone mortar, till it becomes a rough paſte, and that none of the bark be diſcernable; next after waſh it well in ſome running ſtream, as long as you perceive the leaſt motes in it: then put it into an earthen pot to ferment, ſeum it for four or five days, as often as any thing riſes, and when no more comes, change it into a freſh earthern veſſel, and preſerve it for uſe in this manner. Take what quantity you think fit, put it in an earthen pipkin, and a third part of capons or gooſe-greaſe to it well clarified, or oil of walnuts, which is better, incorporate them on a gentle fire, and ſtir it continually till it is cold, and thus it is finiſhed.

To prevent froſt; take a quantity of as much oil of petroleum as you do gooſe-greaſe, and no cold will congeal it: the Italians make theirs of the berries of the miſſeto tree heated after the ſame manner, and mix it with nut-oil, an ounce to a pound of lime, and taking it off from the fire, add half an ounce of turpentine, which qualifies it alſo for the water.

Great quantities of bird-lime are brought from Damaſcus, ſuppoſed to be made of ſebeſtens, becauſe we ſometimes find the kernels, but it is ſubject to froſt, impatient of wet, and will not laſt above a year or two good. There comes alſo of it into England from Spain, which reſiſts water, but is of an ill ſcent. It is ſaid the bark of our lantorna, or way-faring ſhrubs, will make as good bird-lime as any.

How to uſe BIRDLIME.

When your lime is cold, take your rods and warm them a little over the fire; then take the lime, and wind it about the top of your rod, then draw your rods aſunder one from another, and cloſe them again, continually plying and working them together, till by ſmearing one upon another, you have equally beſtowed on each rod a ſufficient proportion of lime.

If

If you lime any ſtring, do it when the lime is very hot and at the thinneſt, beſmearing the ſtrings on all ſides, by folding them together and unfolding them again.

If you lime ſtraws, it muſt be done likewiſe when the lime is very hot, doing a great quantity together, and working them before the fire till they are beſmeared, every ſtraw having its due proportion of lime; having ſo done, put them up in caſes of leather, till you have occaſion to uſe them.

The beſt way of making Water BIRDLIME.

Buy what quantity you think fit of the ſtrongeſt bird-lime you can procure, and waſh it in a clear ſpring water, till you find it very pliable, and the hardneſs thereof removed; then beat out the water extraordinary well, till you cannot perceive a drop to appear, then dry it well; after this put it into an earthen pot, and mingle therewith capons greaſe unſalted, ſo much as will make it run, then add thereto two ſpoonfuls of ſtrong vinegar, a ſpoonful of the beſt ſallad oil, and a ſmall quantity of Venice turpentine: this is the allowance of theſe ingredients, which muſt be added to every pound of ſtrong bird lime as aforeſaid.

Having thus mingled them, boil all gently over a ſmall fire, ſtirring it continually, then take it from the fire, let it cool; when at any time you have occaſion to uſe it, warm it, and then anoint your twigs or ſtraws, or any other ſmall things, and no water will take away the ſtrength thereof.

This ſort of lime is beſt, eſpecially for ſnipes and feldfares.

Of taking ſmall BIRDS *which uſe hedges and buſhes with lime twigs.*

The great lime buſh is beſt for this uſe, which you muſt take after this manner: cut down the main branch or bough of any buſhy tree, whoſe branch and twigs are long, thick, ſmooth, and ſtrait, without either pricks or knots, of which

which the willow or birch tree are the beſt; when you have pricked it and trimmed it from all ſuperfluity, making the twigs neat and clean, then take the beſt bird-lime, well mixed and wrought together with gooſe greaſe, or capons greaſe, which being warmed, lime every twig therewith within four fingers of the bottom.

The body from whence the branches have their riſe muſt be untouched with lime.

Be ſure you do not daub your twigs with too much lime, for that will give diſtaſte to the birds, yet let none want its proportion, or have any part left bare which ought to be touched; for as too much will deter them from coming, ſo too little will not hold them when they are there. Having ſo done, place your buſh in ſome quickſet or dead hedge near unto towns end, back yards, old houſes, or the like; for theſe are the reſort of ſmall birds in the ſpring time; in the ſummer and harveſt, in groves, buſhes, or white-thorn trees, quickſet hedges, near corn fields, fruit trees, flax and hemp lands, and in the winter about houſes, hovels, barns, ſtacks, or thoſe places where ſtand ricks of corn, or ſcattered chaff, &c.

As near as you can to any of theſe haunts, plant your lime buſh, and plant yourſelf alſo at a convenient diſtance undiſcovered, imitating with your mouth ſeveral notes of birds, which you muſt learn by frequent practice, walking the fields for that purpoſe very often, obſerving the variety of ſeveral birds ſounds, eſpecially ſuch as they call one another by.

Some have been ſo expert herein, that they could imitate the notes of twenty ſeveral ſorts of birds at leaſt, by which they have caught ten birds to another's one that was ignorant therein.

If you cannot attain it by your induſtry, you muſt buy then a bird-call, of which there are ſeveral ſorts and eaſy to be framed; ſome of wood, ſome of horn, ſome of cane, and the like.

Having learnt firſt how to uſe this call, you ſhall ſit and call the birds unto you, and as many of them light on your buſh, ſtep not out unto them till you ſee them ſuf-

ſufficiently entangled, neither is it requiſite to run to every ſingle bird, but let them alone till more come, for the fluttering is as good as a ſtale to entice them more.

This exerciſe you may uſe from ſun riſing till ten o'clock in the morning, and from one till almoſt ſun ſet.

You may take theſe ſmall birds, only with lime twigs without the buſh.

Some boys have taken two hundred, or three hundred ſmall twigs, about the bigneſs of ruſhes, and about three inches long, and have gone with them into a field where there were hemp cocks: upon the tops of half a ſcore lying all round together, they have ſtuck their twigs, and then have gone and beat that field, or the next to it, where they ſaw any birds, and commonly in ſuch fields, there are infinite numbers of linnets and green birds which are great lovers of hempſeed.

And they flying in ſuch vaſt flocks, they have caught at one fall of them upon the cocks eight dozen at a time.

But to return; there is a pretty way of taking birds with lime twigs; by placing near them a ſtale or two made of living baits, placing them aloft that they may be viſible to the birds thereabout, who will no ſooner be perceived, but every bird will come and gaze, wondering at the ſtrangeneſs of the ſight, and having no other convenient lighting-place but where the lime-twigs are, you may take what number you liſt of them. But the owl is a far better ſtale than the bat, being bigger and more eaſily to be perceived, beſides he is never ſeen abroad, but he is followed and perſecuted by all the birds that are near.

If you have not a living bat or owl, their ſkins will ſerve as well, ſtuffed, and will laſt you twenty years: there are ſome who have uſed an owl cut in wood and naturally painted, with wonderful ſucceſs.

Another method of taking all manner of ſmall BIRDS *with* BIRDLIME.

In cold weather, that is, in froſt or ſnow, all ſorts of ſmall birds keep together in flocks, as larks, chaf-

finches,

ſnches, linnets, goldfinches, yellow hammers, buntings, ſparrows, &c.

All theſe except the lark, perch on trees or buſhes, as well as feed on the ground.

If they reſort about your houſe or adjacent fields, then uſe bird-lime that is well prepared, and not too old; which order after the following manner.

Put the bird-lime into an earthen diſh, adding to it ſome freſh lard, or capons greaſe, putting one ounce of either to a quarter of a pound of birdlime; then ſetting it over the fire, melt it gently together; but you muſt be ſure not to let it boil, which would take away the ſtrength of the bird-lime, and ſpoil it.

It being thus prepared, and you being furniſhed with a quantity of wheat ears, cut the ſtraw about a foot long beſides the ears, and lime them for about ſix inches from the bottom of the ears to the middle of the ſtraw; the lime being warmed that it may run the thinner upon the ſtraw, and therefore be the leſs diſcernable, and liable to be ſuſpected by the birds.

Then go into the field, and carry with you a bag of chaff, and threſhed ears, which ſcatter together for the compaſs of twenty yards in width (this will be in a ſnowy ſeaſon) then ſtick up the limed ſtraws with the ears leaning, or at the ends touching the ground, then retire from the place, and traverſe the grounds all round about; and by that means, diſturbing the birds in other haunts, they will fly to the place where the chaff, &c. has been ſcattered, and the limed ſtraws ſet up, and pecking at the ears of corn, and finding that they ſtick upon them, they will ſtraitway mount up from the earth, and in their flight the bird-limed ſtraw lying under their wings, will cauſe them to fall, and not being able to diſengage themſelves from the ſtraw, may be taken with eaſe. You muſt not go and take them up, when you ſee five or ſix entangled, for that may prevent you from taking as many dozen at a time.

If the birds that fall, where your limed ſtraws are, be larks, do not go near them till they riſe of themſelves, and

and fly in great flocks; by this method ſome have caught five or ſix dozen at a lift.

Some of theſe ſtraws may be laid nearer home, for taking finches, ſparrows, yellow-hammers, &c. which reſort near to houſes, and frequent barn-doors; where they may be eaſily taken by the foregoing method.

Having performed this in the morning, take away all the limed ears, that ſo the birds may feed boldly, and not be diſturbed or frighted againſt next morning, and in the afternoon bait the ſame place with freſh chaff and ears of corn, and let them reſt till the next morning; and then having ſtuck up freſh limed wheat ears, repeat your morning birding recreation.

Of CANARY-BIRDS.

THE Canary-bird is an admirable ſinging bird, of a green colour, that takes its name from the place from whence they firſt came, viz. from the Canary-Iſles, and no where elſe; but of late years, there is a ſort of birds that are brought in abundance from Germany, eſpecially from Tirol, and are therefore called German birds; being a much better ſort than the other, though their originals are ſuppoſed to have been firſt brought from the Canaries.

Theſe birds, that is the cocks, never grow fat, and they cannot be diſtinguiſhed by ſome country people from common green-birds; though the Canary-birds are much luſtier, have a longer tail, and differ much in the heaving of the paſſages of the throat, when they ſing.

But to make a right choice of this bird, and to know when he has a good ſong; in the firſt place, let him be a long bird, ſtanding ſtrait, and not crouching, but ſprightly like a ſparrow hawk, ſtanding with life and boldneſs, and not ſubject to be fearful.

Theſe birds being ſo much eſteemed for their pleaſing ſong, are ſometimes ſold at a high price, at ten or fifteen ſhillings

ſhillings a-piece, more or leſs according to the goodneſs and excellency of their notes, there being a great difference in them.

It is very adviſeable before you buy, firſt to hear them ſing, for the buyer will then pleaſe his ears; for one fancies a ſong bird, another a very harſh bird, if he be not ſo ſweet: though undoubtedly the beſt Canary-bird in general, is that which has the moſt variety of notes, and holds out in ſinging the longeſt.

In order to know whether a bird is in health before you buy him; take him out of the ſtore cage, and put him in a clean cage ſingly, and if he ſtand up boldly without crouching or ſhrinking in his feathers, and looks with a briſk eye, and not ſubject to clap his head under his wing, it is a ſign that he is in good health; but yet he may be an unhealthy bird ſtill.

But the greateſt matter is to obſerve his dunging; if he bolts his tail like a nightingale, after he has dunged, it is a great ſign that he is not in perfect health; though he may ſing at preſent and look pretty briſk, you may aſſure yourſelf, it will not be long before he is ſick; but if his dung be very thin like water, or of a ſlimy white without any blackneſs in it, it is a ſign of approaching death.

When a Canary-bird is in perfect health, his dung lies round and hard, with a fine white on the outſide and dark within; dries quickly, and the larger the dung is the better it is with him, ſo that it be long, round and hard; but as to a fed bird, he very ſeldom dungs ſo hard, unleſs he be very young.

Canary-birds are ſubject to many diſeaſes, as impoſthumes, which affect the head and cauſe them to fall ſuddenly from the perch, and die in a ſhort time if not ſpeedily cured.

The moſt approved medicine is an ointment made of freſh butter and capon's greaſe, melted together, with which anoint the top of the bird's head, for two or three days together, and it will diſſolve it, and cure him; but if you have let it alone too long, then after you have anointed him three or four times, ſee whether the place of

his head be ſoft; and if ſo, open it gently and let out the matter, which will be like the yolk of an egg; when you have done this, anoint the place, and this will immediately cure him without any more to do.

And if you find the impoſthume at any time return, do as before directed; you muſt alſo give him figs, and let him have a ſlice or two of liquorice, with white ſugar candy in his water.

Some are ſo curious as to breed theſe birds in England, and they have excelled all others; now for the ordering of theſe birds when they begin to build, or are intended for breeding, make a convenient cage, or prepare a room that may be fit for that purpoſe, taking care to let it have an outlet towards the riſing of the ſun; where you muſt have a piece of wire; that they may have egreſs and regreſs at their pleaſure: when this has been done, ſet up ſome brooms, either heath or frail, in the corners of it, opening them in the middle, and if the room be pretty high two or three brooms may be ſet under one another, but then you muſt make partitions with boards over the top of every broom, otherwiſe they will dung on one another's heads; neither will they endure to ſee themſelves ſo near each other's neſts; for the cock and hen will be apt to fly on an hen that is not matched to them, when they ſee them juſt under their neſt; which many times cauſes the ſpoiling of their eggs and young ones.

In the next place you muſt cauſe ſomething to be made ſo convenient, and of ſuch bigneſs, as may hold meat a conſiderable time, that you may not be diſturbing them continually, and a proper veſſel for water alſo; and the place where the ſeed is intended to be put, muſt be ſo ordered that it may hang out of the reach of the mice, for they are deſtroyers of them: you muſt likewiſe prepare ſome ſtuff of ſeveral ſorts of things; ſuch as cotton, wool, ſmall dead graſs, elk's hair, and a long ſort of moſs that grows by ditch ſides or in the woods, for them to build their neſts withal.

Dry them well, before you put them together, then mingle all well, and put them up into a net like a cab-

bage

bage net, hanging it ſo that they may with eaſe pull it out.

You muſt alſo ſet perches about the room, and if it be large enough ſet a tree in the middle of it, that ſo they may take the more pleaſure; and always remember to proportion your birds, according to the largeneſs of the room, or rather let it be underſtocked then overſtocked, for they are birds that love their liberty.

When you perceive them to begin to build and carry ſtuff, give them once a day or in two days at leaſt, a little greens and ſome coarſe ſugar; for that will cauſe a ſlipperineſs in the body, that ſo the eggs may come forth without injuring the birds; for they die many times in laying the firſt egg, which is a loſs to the breeder; firſt in reſpect to his firſt breed, then to the unpairing of the cock, to which you ought to put another hen, whether he will pair or no: but it would be much better if that cock were taken out, than ſuffered to continue in the breeding place, eſpecially if it be ſmall; but in a large place with pairs he cannot do that injury, and it will be a difficult matter to diſtinguiſh which is the cock of that hen that died, and as difficult to take him in a large place, without doing more injury than the bird comes to: ſo that it will be beſt to let him reſt to the end of the year, when if you leave but two or three pairs together, it will be the beſt way to take him out, and match him with another hen, and then put him in again.

Beſides, when you find that they have built their neſts, the nets that have their breeding ſtuff in them may be taken away, for they will be apt to build upon their eggs with new ſtuff, if they do not lay preſently.

As to the time of their breeding, it is uſually three times a year, viz. in April, May, and June, and ſometimes in Auguſt: and as for ordering the young ones, they muſt not be left too long in the neſts; for if ſo they are apt to grow ſullen, and will not feed kindly, therefore they are to be taken out at about nine or ten days old, and put into a little baſket and covered over with a net or

elſe they will be apt to jump out upon the firſt opening of the baſket and be hurt, if they fall down.

They muſt alſo be kept very warm for the firſt week, for they will be very tender, ſubject to the cramp, and not digeſt their meat, if they take cold.

And when they are taken from the old Canaries, let it be in the evening, and if poſſible, when the old ones are out of ſight; otherwiſe they will be very apt to take diſtaſte, when they ſit again, and have young ones, and ready at every ſight to forſake both young and their eggs.

Then as to the preparation of their meat; ſoak ſome of the largeſt rape ſeed in water for twenty or twenty-four hours; but if the water be a little warm, twelve hours may be enough; then drain the water from the ſeed, and put a third of white bread to it, and a little canary-ſeed in flower, and mix them all together.

Then with a ſmall ſtick, take up a little at the end of it, and give every bird ſome, two or three times over; for if you overcharge their ſtomachs at firſt, they ſeldom thrive after it.

For you muſt know that the old ones give them but a little at a time, and the meat they receive from them, is warmed in the ſtomach before they give it them, and then all the rape is hulled, which lies not ſo hard at the ſtomach, as thoſe ſeeds which have the ſkin on.

Neither muſt their meat be made too dry; for then they will be apt to be vent burnt, becauſe all the ſeeds are hot.

For it is obſervable that the old ones conſtantly drink after they have eaten ſeeds, and a little before they feed their young ones: and they commonly ſit a quarter of an hour feeding them, to keep them warm, that the meat may the better nouriſh them; therefore when you have fed them, let them be covered up very warm, that their meat may the better digeſt with them.

Laſtly, not to omit the ſeveral names of theſe birds at different times and ages: ſuch as are above three years old are

are called Runts, thoſe above two are named Ereſſes, and thoſe of the firſt year that the old ones bring up are called Branches; thoſe that are new flown and cannot feed themſelves Puſhers, and thoſe that are bred up by hand Neſtlings.

Of PARTRIDGES.

PARTRIDGES being naturally a cowardly, fearful, ſimple bird, are eaſily deceived or beguiled with any device whatever, by train bait, engine, call, ſtale, or other enticement.

I ſhall begin in the firſt place to conſider their haunts, which are not (like the pheaſants) certain, but various, any covert will ſerve their turn, and ſometimes none at all.

The places they delight in moſt, are corn-fields, eſpecially while the corn grows, for under that covert they ſhelter, ingender, and breed; neither are thoſe places unfrequented by them when the corn is cut down, by reaſon of the grain they find therein, eſpecially in wheat ſtubble, and the height thereof they delight in, being to them as a covert or ſhelter. Now when the wheat-ſtubble is much trodden by men or beaſts, they then betake themſelves to the barley ſtubble, provided it be freſh and untrodden; then will, in the furrows, among the clots, brambles, and long graſs, hide both themſelves and covies, which are ſometimes twenty in number, or twenty-five; nay I have heard of thirty in a covey.

Now after the winter ſeaſon is come, and that theſe ſtubble-fields are ploughed up, or over ſoiled with cattle, then do theſe partridges reſort in the up-land meadows, and lodge in the dead graſs, or fog under hedges among mole-hills, or under the roots of trees, ſometimes they reſort to coppices and underwoods, eſpecially if any corn-fields are near adjacent to, or where grows broom, brakes, fern, or any covert whatſoever,

In the harveſt-time, when every field is full of men

and cattle, then in the day-time you will find them in the fallow fields which are next adjoining to the corn-fields, where they lie lurking till evening, and then they feed among the ſheaves of corn; as alſo early in the morning.

When you know their haunts, according to the ſituation of the country and ſeaſon of the year, your next care muſt be to find them out in their haunts, which is done ſeveral ways. Some do it by the eye only; and this art can never be taught, but learned by frequent experience, diſtinguiſhing thereby the colour of the Partridge from that of the earth, and how, and in what manner they lodge and couch together; by which method you may come near enough to them, they being a very lazy bird, and ſo unwilling to take wing, that you may almoſt ſet your foot upon them before they will ſtir, provided you do not ſtand and gaze on them, but be in continual motion, otherwiſe they will ſpring up and be gone.

Another way to diſcover them, is by going to their haunts very early in the morning, or at the cloſe of the evening, which is called the jucking-time, which is very loud and earneſt, and after ſome few calls, the hen will anſwer, and by this means they meet together, which you may know by their rejoicing and chattering one with another; upon hearing of which take your range about them, drawing nearer and nearer to the place you heard them juck in; then caſt your eye towards the furrows of the land, and there you will ſoon find where the covey lies.

The beſt, ſureſt, and eaſieſt way for finding of Partridges, is by the call, having firſt learned the true and natural notes of the Partridge, knowing how to tune every note in it's proper key, applying them their due time and ſeaſons.

Being perfect herein, either mornings or evenings, (all other times being improper) go to their haunts, and having conveyed yourſelf into ſome ſecret place where you may ſee and not be ſeen, liſten a-while if you can hear the Partridge call, if you do, anſwer them again in the ſame notes, and as they change or double their notes, ſo muſt you in like manner; thus continue doing till they draw

nearer

nearer and nearer to you; having them in your view, lay yourſelf on your back and lie without motion, as if you were dead, by which means you may count the whole number.

Having attained to the knowledge of diſcovering where they lie, the next thing is how to catch them.

Firſt *with* NETS.

The nets for taking of Partridges muſt be every way like your pheaſant nets, both for length and breadth, except that the meſhes muſt be ſmaller, being made of the ſame thread, and dyed of the ſame colour.

Having found out the covey, draw forth your nets, and taking a large circumference, walk a good round pace with a careleſs eye, rather from than towards them, till you have trimmed your nets, and made them ready for that purpoſe; which done, you muſt draw in your circumference leſs and leſs, till you come within the length of your net, then pricking down a ſtick about three feet long, faſten one end of the line to your net, and make it faſt in the earth as you walk about, (for you muſt make no ſtop nor ſtay) then letting the net ſlip out of your hands, ſpread it open as you go, and ſo carry and lay it all over the Partridges.

If they ſhould be ſtraggling, ſo that you cannot cover them all with one net, then draw forth another, and do with that as you did with the former, and ſo a third if there be occaſion; having ſo done, ruſh in upon them, who affrighted, will fly up, and ſo be entangled in the nets.

Secondly, *with* BIRDLIME.

Get the faireſt and largeſt wheat-ſtraws you can, and cut them off between knot and knot, and lime them with the ſtrongeſt lime. Then go to the haunts of partridges, and call, if you are anſwered, then prick at ſome diſtance from you your lime ſtraws, in many croſs-rows and ranks, croſs the lands and furrows, taking in two or three lands at leaſt, then lie cloſe and call again, not ceaſing till you have

have drawn them towards you, ſo that they be intercepted by the way by your limed ſtraws, which they ſhall no ſooner touch but they will be enſnared; and by reaſon they ſhall run together like a brood of chickens, they will ſo beſmear and daub each other, that very few will eſcape.

This way of taking partridges is only to be uſed in ſtubble-fields, from Auguſt till Chriſtmas; but if you will take them in woods, paſtures, or meadows, then you muſt lime rods, as was before mentioned for pheaſants, and ſtick them in the ground after the ſame manner.

Thirdly, *To drive* PARTRIDGES.

The driving of partridges is more delightful than any other way of taking them: the manner of it is thus,

Make an engine in the form of a horſe, cut out of canvas, and ſtuff it with ſtraw, or ſuch like matter: with this artificial horſe and your nets go to the haunts of partridges, and having found out the covey, and pitched your nets below, you muſt go above, and taking the advantage of the wind, you muſt drive downwards: let your nets be pitched ſlope-wiſe, and hovering. Then having your face covered with ſomething that is green, or of a dark blue, you muſt, putting the engine before, ſtalk towards the partridges with a ſlow pace, raiſing them on their feet, but not their wings, and then they will run naturally before you.

If they chance to run a bye-way, or contrary to your purpoſe, then croſs them with your engine, and by ſo facing them, they will run into that tract you would have them; thus by a gentle ſlow pace, you may make them run and go which way you will, and at laſt drive them into your net.

To take PARTRIDGES *with a ſetting-dog.*

There is no art of taking them ſo excellent and pleaſant as by the help of a ſetting-dog, wherefore to proceed to the ſport, we ſhall give you an account what this ſetting-dog is.

You are to underſtand then, that a ſetting dog is a cer-

tain lusty land-spaniel, taught by nature to hunt the partridges more than any chace whatever, running the fields over with such alacrity and nimbleness as if there was no limit to his fury and desire, and yet, by art, under such excellent command, that in the very height of his career, by a hem or sound of his master's voice, he shall stand, gaze about him, look in his master's face, and observe his directions, whether to proceed, stand still, or retire; nay, when he is even just upon his prey, that he may even take it up in his mouth, yet his obedience is so far framed by art, that presently he will either stand or fall flat on his belly, without daring to make any noise or motion till his master come to him, and then he'll proceed in all things to follow his directions.

Having a dog thus qualified by art and nature, take him with you where partridges haunt, there cast off your dog, and by some word of encouragement that he is acquainted with, engage him to range, but never too far from you; and see that he beat his ground justly and even, without casting about or flying now here, now there, which the mettle of some will do, if not corrected and reproved; therefore when you perceive this fault, you must presently call him in with a hem, and so check him that he dare not do the like again for that day; so he will range afterwards with more temperance, ever and anon looking in his master's face, as if he would gather from thence whether he did good or ill.

If in your dog's ranging you perceive him to stop on a sudden, or stand still, you must then make in to him, (for without doubt he hath set the partridges) and as soon as you come to him, command him to go nearer to them, and he goes not, but either lies still or stands wagging his tail, as he would say here they are under my nose, and withal now and then look back; then cease from urging him further, and take your circumference, walking fast, with a careless eye, looking strait before the nose of the dog, and thereby see how the covey lie, whether close or straggling.

Then commanding the dog to lie still, draw forth your net,

net, and prick one end to the ground, and ſpread your net all open; and ſo cover as many of the partridges as you can; which done, make in with a noiſe and ſpring up the partridges, which ſhall no ſooner riſe but they will be entangled in the net. And if you let go the old cock and hen, it will be a means to increaſe your paſtime.

Of PHEASANTS.

A Pheaſant is a bird about the bigneſs of a cock, having a crooked bill, and feathers of various colours; its fleſh is delicious, and much coveted. Now to judge aright of this bird for eating, a cock, if young, has a ſhort ſpur, if old, a ſharp ſmall ſpur; ſee that it be not pared, if fat it has a vein on the ſide of the breaſt under the wing; if new, a fat firm; if you touch it hard with your finger, it will peel; then if young, it has a ſmooth leg, and a fine ſmooth grain on the fleſh; if old, it has a rugged wrinkled grain on the fleſh, and full of hairs, like an old yard hen; ſo if ſhe be full of eggs, ſhe will have a faſt and open vent, if not full, a cloſe vent.

Of PHEASANT-TAKING.

A rural diverſion, performed with nets, and only in crowing time, which is about the end of February, and in March, before they begin to breed; it is done either generally or particularly, the firſt is, when the whole eye, viz. the old cock and hen, with all their young ones, or powts, they flock or run together in thick woods or coppices, are taken; or particularly, when none but the old, and ſuch of the young as are of age fit for coupling, are taken; ſo that you cannot have any aſſurance with your nets to ſtrike at more than one or two at a time; for the pheaſant is of a melancholy ſullen diſpoſition, and when once they have coupled, do not accompany in flocks as other birds.

In order to the taking pheaſants with the greater eaſe, you muſt be acquainted with their haunts and uſual breeding-places, which are in young, thick and well-grown cop-

coppices, free from the annoyances of cattle or path ways; for being of a very timorous nature, they eſteem the ſtrength of their coverts their only ſafety, and do not abide or breed in open or plain fields, nor under the covert of corn-fields, low ſhrubby buſhes, or in large or tall trees.

Having found their haunts, next you are to find their eye, or brood; and here you are to obſerve, that pheaſants come out of the woods and coverts thrice a day, to feed in freſh paſtures, green wheat, or other grain, and that is about ſun-riſing, about noon, and a little before ſun-ſet. Now the courſe to be followed, is to go to that ſide of the wood where you ſuppoſe they make their ſallies, and watch the places where they come out; or by ſearching their haunts; for you may ſee the young powts in that ſeaſon, flock and run together after the hen like chickens. Again, if you go to their haunts early in the morning or late in the evening; you will hear the old cock and hen call their young ones, and the young ones anſwer them, and accordingly direct your path as near as you can to the place where they are, then lie down as cloſe as poſſible, that you may not be diſcerned; but withal, obſerve how they lodge together, the better to know how to pitch your nets with greater advantage, both of wind, weather, and place; otherwiſe they will betake themſelves to their legs, and not to their wings, unleſs forced to it by a cloſe purſuit.

But the certaineſt way to find them out, is to have an artificial pheaſant call, wherein a perſon ſhould be very expert in the imitation of their notes, and the time when, and to what purpoſe they uſe them, which calls are much the ſame as hens uſe in clucking their chickens.

The chief time for uſing the call, is in the morning early, or about ſun ſet, at which time they ſeek their food, and then the note muſt be to call them to feed; but though theſe are the beſt times, yet the call muſt be uſed at other times, only altering the notes for calling them together, or the like.

Having the perfect uſe of the call, the knowledge of their haunts, and the times to take them, chuſe ſome pri-

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vate place not to be diſcovered, and then call at firſt very ſoftly, leſt any ſhould be lodged very near you, and be affrighted at your loud note; but if nothing reply, then raiſe your note higher and higher till it be extended to the utmoſt compaſs, and if any be within hearing they will anſwer in as loud a note as yours, provided it be tuneable, or elſe all will be ſpoiled.

As ſoon as the pheaſant anſwers, if it be at a good diſtance, creep nearer and nearer, ſtill calling, but not too loud, and as you advance nearer, ſo will the pheaſant to you, ſo that you will come in ſight of her, either on the ground or at perch, always imitating her in her true note; then ceaſe calling, and ſpread your net between the pheaſant and yourſelf, in the moſt convenient place you can find, making one end of the net faſt to the ground, and holding the other in your hand by a long line, ſo that when any thing ſtrains it, you may pull the net cloſe together, which done, call again, and as ſoon as you perceive the pheaſant come under your net, riſe up and ſhew yourſelf, upon which being affrighted, ſhe will ſpring, and ſo become entangled in the net.

In caſe you have divers pheaſants anſwer the call, and that from ſeveral parts of the wood, then keep your firſt ſtation, and as you hear them make towards you, ſo get your nets ready, ſpreading them conveniently about you, viz. one pair of nets on one ſide and another on the other, lying cloſe without any noiſe, only of your call, till you have allured them as aforeſaid, that they may be entangled in your nets.

Another way to take pheaſants, which is reckoned better than the former, and that is, to be provided with a ſtale pheaſant, that is, a live cock, which muſt be tied down to your net, who by his crowing will draw others in: you muſt lie concealed in ſome buſh or ſecret place, and when you ſee any pheaſant come to your net, then draw your line and the net will fall on him and take him.

To take pheaſants by ſnares; when you have found their paſſage out of the wood to their uſual places of feeding, there plant a little ſtake, with a couple of ſnares of horſe-

horſe-hair, one to lie flat on the ground for their feet, and the other about the height of their head, to take them by the neck; and in caſe there ſhould be more paſſes than one, you muſt do the like to every one of them; then fetch a compaſs about, and when you are in a direct line with the pheaſant and the ſnare that you have fitted, then make a gentle noiſe to affright them.

If by their dunging and ſcraping you perceive that they frequent any place, you may then make uſe of ſuch hedge rows as are directed to take fowl with lines and bird-lime, only plant your running lines from them of a convenient height, and ſtill place one to lie flat to entangle their legs.

To take pheaſants or partridges, and to preſerve game in a man's own ground: when you perceive any eye of pheaſants, or covey of partridges, frequent ſuch and ſuch ground, go thither, and in ſome place thereof, diſtant from any hedge, buſh, or gate, about forty or fifty paces, pitch up your ſticks, each a foot long, in a ſquare, and in the middle of the ſticks ſcatter a few corns, which may ſerve as a train to draw on the game to the great heap in the middle of the ſticks. Now the pheaſants and partridges coming to feed according to their cuſtom, will ſoon find out the train, and conſequently the great bait; they will not fail to return thither next morning, in hopes of another repaſt, againſt which time let it be laid ready for them, and pitch by every one of the four ſticks a buſh of furz; if they eat the ſecond time, which you may diſcern by their dung, notwithſtanding the furz-buſhes, then againſt their next coming, croſs ſome lines of packthread, in form of a net, and if for all this they come and eat, you may be ſure to take them when you pleaſe with the following device.

Take away the ſticks, furz-buſhes, and packthread; and then pitch the net deſcribed as follows.

The four main ſupporters of the net muſt be fixed ſtrongly in the ground, that the net may be lightly ſpread on the top: the four ſides of the net muſt be ordered in the ſame manner as ſhall be now directed by the example of one of them, lift up the ſide of the net over the top of the

net that is ſpread, for the ſide muſt not lie flat, but ſtand ſloping like a pent-houſe, ſupported by ſmall twigs, the bottom faſtened in the earth, and the cord or verge of the net reſting on them, then place the four furz-buſhes at each corner of the net, the more to embolden them, and be ſure the running-cord of the net be exact and right, the two ends thereof muſt be tied to a ſtrong cord, which cord muſt reach to the next buſh or ſhelter where you lie concealed, but within view of the net; when all is fixed, ſpread the bait as formerly, but try once or twice how the net will draw, that upon occaſion all may be in good order; the beſt time to wait their coming is at break of day, when they are all buſy in eating the bait, then draw your line with a quick motion, and preſently fix it to the buſh where you are, and make all poſſible haſte to the net to prevent their eſcaping.

If you would preſerve a breed in your grounds then kill the cocks, and keep the hens till towards Lent, in ſome convenient room, and then put them out into your grounds, and they will ſoon find cocks for a breed.

There is another way found moſt effectually for the taking of pheaſants in the winter ſeaſon, provided there is no ſnow: get a net in the form of a caſting net, but larger, with the meſhes about five inches wide; then take ſome peaſe or wheat, and knowing their haunts, which will be in young coppices of about three or four years growth; in ſuch places ſeek out their path, and droppings or dung, which paths generally lead from the young coppices to thoſe that are older: and having found out any path, lay about a pint of corn in the place, obſerving where you lay it, ſo that they may come to eat; thus do for ſeveral days or about a fortnight, by which time they will be ſo accuſtomed to it, that they will come to expect ſome food, and by this means, all, or moſt of the pheaſants in that part, will be gathered to it.

Having thus trained them, and that you certainly know when you come in the morning that they have been there, which will be found by their eating and the dung, then in ſuch places ſet your nets, that is, one in one place, which is done thus; tie the top of your nets to a bow, then ſpread it

it at the bottom; and peg it down to the ground on all parts except one, which muſt be raiſed up above a foot and a half, like an arched door, with an aſhen ſtick, then fix to the ſaid arch ſeveral rods made of hazle, with the taper ends to the earth, within the net, ſo that the pheaſants may come in by parting the ſticks, but not get out again.

Having thus ſet your nets, which muſt be made of coarſe thread, ſuch as rabbet-hays, and of a tanned colour, by putting them into a tan-pit, cover your nets with boughs to prevent them from finding them; and be ſure to ſet them ſome diſtance in the wood. The uſe of the nets is from the beginning of May to the latter end of October.

Of PIGEONS.

A PIGEON is a domeſtic bird, very well known, and fed in order to be eaten: I ſhall chiefly mention thoſe that are bred in pigeon or dove-houſes; ſome there are, for want of the conveniency of ſuch houſes, that are bred in coos and dove-cotes; in general we reckon but two ſorts of pigeons, the wild and the tame; the tame rough-footed ones differ not much from the wild, only ſomewhat bigger, and more familiar: the wild uſually perch upon trees, being ſeldom ſeen on the ground, and are very good food.

By wild pigeons are meant, thoſe that breed in woods, ſea rocks, &c. and by the tame ſuch as are bred in dove-houſes.

There are indeed many ſorts of pigeons, ſuch as carriers, croppers, powters, horſemen, runts, jacobins, turbits, helmets, nuns, tumblers, barbs, petits, owls, ſpots, trumpeters, ſhakers, turners, and ſinikins, from which proceed, when they are contrary matched together, baſtard bred pigeons, ſuch as are called from the cropper, or powter and the carrier, powting-horſemen; from the tumbler, and the horſemen, dragoons: of the generality of theſe I ſhall ſay but little, they being only kept for fancy, and not for the profit of the table, though the ſame method is to be uſed in breeding them.

Theſe are different ſorts of runts, one called Spaniſh runts, generally of a blood-red, or mottled colour; they are very looſe feathered, and large bodied, but breed not ſo often as the ſmaller ſorts.

Horſemen are excellent breeders, and are not eaſily loſt: the common Engliſh runt is a good ſized pigeon, and breeds well.

The pigeon called the Leghorn, is a ſort of runt, only diſtinguiſhed by a little wattle over his noſtril; he is a full bodied pigeon, whoſe feathers lie cloſe to his body, and is an excellent breeder, and generally of a grizzled colour, ermined round the neck.

To thoſe who keep pigeons for the ſake of good breeding, I would recommend baſtard-bred pigeons, ſuch as powting-horſemen, powting-dragoons, from a powter or cropper, and Leghorn; the reaſon is, ſuch pigeon will breed nine or ten pair of young ones in a year, for the little puff of wind thrown in from the powter, gives them a heat and mirth; they will continually be playing or courting, and when they have young ones, will feed them well, which a cropper, by reaſon of the bigneſs of his crop, ſeldom doth.

Carriers breed but ſlowly, three or four pair a year for them, is much, by reaſon of their cold nature; they are conſtant lovers, and very rarely tread any but their own mate, and therefore hard to match when ſeparate; they will often take three months time.

On the contrary, a powter will tread any hen that will let him, at any time; and take him from his own mate, and he will match to another in a day or two; ſo that baſtard-bred pigeons are moſt ſerviceable for thoſe who breed them to ſupply the table.

Great care muſt be taken to make convenient places to breed in, each pair of pigeons muſt be ſure to have two neſts, with baſkets in them is beſt, for before one pair can go out of the neſt, or feed themſelves, the old ones will lay and be ſetting; nay, I have often ſeen a ſecond pair hatched before the firſt could feed themſelves, and the old ones feed both pair. Be ſure when you take the young ones,

ones, clean the neſt, or put in a clean baſket, for cleanlineſs is a great help.

Never let them want meat, for if you do they cannot be provided with ſoft meat in their crop when the young hatch, which if wanting, the young ones certainly die; or if you feed the old ones by hand, they will go feed their young immediately with what they get, which they not being able to digeſt, kills them, ſo that the beſt way is to let them have meat always by them in a box, with a hopper in it made for that purpoſe.

Breed young ones for ſtock in the ſpring, thoſe bred in the winter being generally cramped, and never prove good breeders.

The reaſon why I recommend baſkets to breed in, is, tame pigeons ſeldom build their neſts, the want of which baſkets ſupply. Be ſure take care no vermin comes among them.

Of thoſe bred in pigeon-houſes, the grey pigeon, inclining to aſh colour and black, is the beſt; and ſhe generally ſhews her fruitfulneſs by the redneſs of her eyes and feet, and by the ring of gold colour which is about her neck.

There are two ſeaſons of the year wherein you may ſtock your pigeon-houſe, the firſt is in May; foraſmuch as theſe firſt pigeons have much ſtrengthened themſelves during the winter, are in a condition ſoon to yield profit to the buyer. Secondly in Auguſt, for at that time there are a great number of young pigeons that have been well fed with the corn which their dams, both cocks and hens, have plentifully ſupplied them with, from the harveſt in that ſeaſon.

You muſt take care to furniſh your pigeon-houſe according to the bigneſs of it; if you put but a few in it, it will be a great while before you will have the pleaſure of eating young pigeons, for you muſt take none out of the pigeon-houſe before it is well ſtocked.

Be ſure to feed them in hard weather, and in benting time, which is when the corn is in the ear, and keep out the vermin and you will never want ſtock.

It is good to give them loom, mixed with ſalt and cum-

min ſeed, mixed well, made up in lumps, and dried; it provokes luſt, and helps them in breeding.

Be ſure never to let them want freſh water. The beſt food is tares; the mornings and evenings are proper times to give them their meat, and never at noon, for fear of breaking their reſt, which they uſually take at that hour, which rooſt is very neceſſary to make them thrive with the food which they eat.

A Secret to hinder PIGEONS *from quitting the pigeon-houſe.*

Take the head and feet of a gelt he-goat, and boil them together till the fleſh ſeparates from the bone; take this fleſh and boil it again in the ſame liquor, till the whole is conſumed; bruiſe into this decoction, which is very thick, ſome potters earth, out of which you are to take all the ſtones, vetch, dung, hemp, food and corn; the whole muſt be kneaded together and reduced to a paſte or dough, which form into ſmall loaves about the thickneſs of two fifts, and dry them in the ſun or oven, and take care it do not burn; when they are baked, lay them in ſeveral parts of the pigeon houſe, and as ſoon as they are ſet there the pigeons will amuſe themſelves with pecking them, and finding ſome taſte therein which pleaſes them, they will keep ſo cloſe to it that they will not afterwards leave it but with regret. Others take a handful of ſalt, which they candy, and afterwards put it into the pigeon houſe. Some take a goat's head and boil it in water, with ſalt, cummin, hemp, and urine, and then expoſe it in the pigeon-houſe, with which they amuſe the pigeons. Laſtly, there are thoſe who fry millet in honey, adding a little water thereto to prevent its burning to; this preparation is a repaſt to them, and will cauſe them to have ſuch an affection for their ordinary habitation, that they will be ſo far from abandoning it themſelves that they will draw ſtrange pigeons to it.

Pigeons will live eight years, but they are only prolific for the firſt four years, afterwards they are worth nothing, for when they are once paſt that age, all they do is to deprive you of the profit you might reap by others that are younger. It is ſomething difficult to know how to diſtinguiſh their age.

If

If you would furniſh your table with young ones in the winter, and feed daintily, you muſt not tarry for them till they can fly, but take them when they are grown pretty ſtrong; pluck the largeſt quills out of their wings, which will confine them to their neſts; others tie their feet, or elſe break the bones of their legs, by which means they will be fat in a very ſhort time, becauſe the ſubſtance of the nouriſhment they receive being then not ſo much diſperſed, turns into fat.

PIGEON-HOUSE, a piece of œconomy, of which a great deal may be ſaid, there being an infinite number of things to be obſerved, in order to get a pigeon-houſe that may be advantageous and profitable to you: to begin therefore; the firſt thing is to pitch upon a convenient place, of which none is more proper than in the middle of a court-yard, which is ſuppoſed to be ſpacious enough, or without the houſe, by reaſon pigeons are naturally of a fearful diſpoſition, and the leaſt noiſe they hear frightens them; hence it is, that they always make pigeon-houſes with much care, and a great deal of reaſon, at ſuch a diſtance, that the ruſling noiſe of the trees ſhaken by the wind, and the over murmurings of the water, may not affright them.

As to the bigneſs of the pigeon-houſe, that depends upon the fancy of thoſe who build them; but it is better they ſhould be ſpacious than too little; and for its form, the round is to be preferred before the ſquare ones, becauſe rats cannot ſo eaſily come at one as at the other; and the round houſe is alſo more commodious, by means of a ladder turning upon an axis, you eaſily viſit all that is within the pigeon-houſe, and come near the neſts without being propped, and take the pigeons in them; ſo that you may effect that by conveniency of this ladder here, which cannot be done in ſquare pigeon-houſes.

Now to hinder rats from getting upon the outſide into a pigeon-houſe, they faſten tin plaies to a certain height, and in ſuch places where the rats might paſs, at the outward angles of a ſquare pigeon-houſe; theſe plates ought to be a foot high, and raiſed above half a foot on the ſides, that when the rats come to them and cannot catch hold of them, they

they fall upon the iron ſpikes which are uſually fixed at the bottom of the place where you foreſee they may fall.

Moreover, care ſhould be had that the pigeon-houſe ſhould be placed ſome ſmall diſtance from water, that ſo the pigeons may carry it to their young ones; and the ſame being a little warmed in their bills it will be more wholeſome for them than when it is cold.

Care ſhould be taken that the boards which cover the pigeon-houſe ſhould be well joined together, in ſuch manner that neither rats nor wind can paſs through; the covering alſo ſhould be ſuch that no rain may penetrate through it; eſpecially, it ought to be raiſed on good ſolid foundations, the floor good, the building ſolid, and well cemented, becauſe pigeons dung has an ill property of ruining foundations; they muſt be hard plaiſtered, and white-waſhed, within and without, that being the colour moſt pleaſing to the pigeons. It muſt be a conſtant caution, that there be no window or opening of the pigeon-houſe to the eaſtward, but they muſt always, as much as may, be placed to the ſouth, for pigeons love directly to feel the ſun, and eſpecially in winter; but if by reaſon of the ſituation of the place, you can do no otherwiſe than make the window of the pigeon-houſe to face the north, you muſt always keep it ſhut cloſe in cold weather, and open it in ſummer, that the cooling air may have paſſage into the place, which is refreſhing and delightful to pigeons in that ſeaſon of the year.

The pigeon-houſe ſhould have two cinctures built without either of free-ſtone or parget, one of which is to reach to the middle of the pigeon-houſe, and the other under the window, through which the pigeons go in and out; theſe two incloſures are made on purpoſe that the birds may reſt upon when they return out of the fields.

Of SHOOTING, *and* SHOOTING FLYING.

GO early into the field, take with you ſome rum in a wicker bottle that will hold about a gill; this will keep out or expel wind, cure the gripes, and give ſpirits when fatigued; but do not take too much, for too much, will

will make your ſight unſteady. When you have got your gun, a turn-ſcrew, worm, and flints ready, call your pointers, and take with you a partridge-wind: with this carefully clean the touch-hole, then charge and prime, but prime not too full, becauſe the lingering fire will diſappoint your aim. Charge in the field, and not the night before; ram the powder well, but the ſhot lightly; let one third of the charge be powder, and two thirds ſhot, ſecuring the charge with tow. When you are about to fire, take time, and keep your temper quiet and unruffled as a Stoic. When you have fired, charge again immediately before the air gets into the piece, and do not loſe time in charging it, for if it cools it will be covered with a clammy ſweat that will render the effect of the charge uncertain. Beſides, you ſhould be ready to ſecure your game, for a wounded pheaſant will often riſe when you go to take her, and if you are not ready to bring her down again, may totally eſcape; this, however, rarely happens to woodcocks or ſnipes. Permit your mark to be diſtant at leaſt forty yards before you fire; for if the diſtance be leſs, you will either miſs, the ſhot not having time to ſpread, or you will tear it to pieces, but do not let it be much farther, leſt you wound too ſlight to bring the bird down. The flying marks, with reſpect to their motion and poſition are five, 1ſt, moving towards you in a direct line: 2dly, from you in a direct line; 3dly, croſs you; 4thly, circularly; 5thy, obliquely. Let the firſt mark paſs, then take aim by advancing the mouth of the piece above her head. Aim at the ſecond by raiſing your piece till there is no ſpace between the object and the ſight. When you have a traverſe or croſs mark, wait till it comes in ſome degree lineal, by getting forty yards to the right or left, for this poſition will better allow eight feet in the aim, than the other will two inches. When the mark is circular, watch the courſe, moving round with your gun till you gain the furtheſt lineal point, and then fire. In firing at a covey, always confine your aim to one. After the harveſt, when the birds are become ſhy, watch their flight ſoon after ſun-ſet, you will be directed by their call, and the next morning you will know where to find them.

When

When a quail riſes, do not be in too much haſte to fire during her firſt flight; her flight is always ſhort, and you may be ſure to ſpring her a ſecond time, when you are aware of her, and better prepared. To ſhoot larks in froſty weather, load with as much powder as ſhot, and fire among them as they riſe, for their wings being then expanded, you will kill many more than if you fire at them on the ground. Never fire at a mallard till you can get behind him, for no ſhot can enter his breaſt. Do not fire full againſt the wind when it blows hard, for it will then drive the powder into your face; and if it rains, immediately give over your ſport. Never blow at the mouth of your piece after it has miſſed fire, leſt ſome latent ſpark diſcharge it through your head. Keep your gun always directed from you, and your thumb on the flint, which you ſhould never hammer, becauſe the ſparks may fall into the pan, and kill a bye-ſtander.

Of BOWLING.

THE firſt and greateſt cunning to be obſerved in bowling, is the right chuſing your bowl, which muſt be ſuitable to the ground you deſign to run on. Thus for the cloſe alleys your beſt choice is the flat bowl. 2. For open grounds of advantage, the round byaſſed bowl. 3. For green ſwards that are plain and level, the bowl that is as round as a ball.

The next thing that requires your care, is the chuſing out your ground, and preventing the winding hangings, and many turning advantages of the ſame, whether it be in open wide places, as bares and bowling-greens, or in cloſe bowling alleys.

Laſtly, have your judgment about you, to obſerve and diſtinguiſh the riſings, fallings, and advantages of the places where you bowl; have your wits about you, to avoid being rooked of your money; and have your underſtanding about you, to know your beſt time and opportunity for this recreation; and finally, a ſtudious care of your words and paſſions; and then bowl away, and you may deſerve, well have you bowled indeed.

F I N I S.